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BIRTH.

At 1, Seymour Terrace, on the 28th December, the wife of E. W. MITCHELL, of a son. [2727]

MARRIAGE.

On the 17th instant, at the Legation of the United States in Tokyo, by the Rev. T. S. Tving and the Rev. A. F. King, VICTOR FRANCIS THIENNETTE, of BERIGNY, of Kobe, to MARY ELIZABETH, only daughter of Paul Andreas Dithleisen, of Kobe.

DEATHS.

GEORGE DUBOIS, born at Locle, Switzerland, the 14th September, 1862, died of typhoid fever at No. 5, Bluff, Yokohama, on the 16th December, 1895, at 9 a.m., in the 34th year of his age.
At his residence, Yama, Kobe, on the 15th December, Mr. H. B. WOODFORD.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 22nd November arrived, per M. M. steamer *Natal*, on the 25th December (83 days); the English mail of the 19th November arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Alashapur*, on the 28th December (29 days); and the American mail of the 29th November arrived, per P. M. steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, on the 29th December (30 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The dedication of the German concession at Tientsin took place on the 15th December.

It is stated that Captain Hirayama, of the *Hayama-kun*, has been dismissed his ship in consequence of the *Thales* affair.

The annual meeting of the Dairy Farm Co., Limited, was held on the 27th December, when the report and accounts were adopted.

Telegrams have been received to the effect that Liaotung was entirely evacuated by the Japanese army on the 25th December.

The Hongkong branch of the firm of Messrs. Carlowitz celebrated the jubilee of the firm on the 28th December by entertaining a large number of Chinese merchants to a dinner.

The annual meeting of the Perak Sugar Co., Limited, was held at Shanghai on the 20th December, but the accounts not being ready for presentation it was adjourned to the 22nd January.

It is stated that Mr. Denison, the foreign adviser to the Japanese Government, has been rewarded by the Government with 10,000 yen for his services in connection with the war and his advice regarding the framing of the Shimonoseki Treaty.

The first annual meeting of the New Balmoral Gold Mining Co., Limited, was held on the 28th December, when the Chairman spoke hopefully of the prospects but stated that the amount expended on development had been largely in excess of the estimates.

In obedience to instructions from the Viceroy Chang, the Shanghai Magistrate has issued a proclamation notifying the public that the dollars and decimal coins made by the Hupeh mint which have lately appeared in Shanghai must be accepted as legal tender, and that any one found guilty of trying to lower the face value thereof or melting them for other purposes will be punished to the utmost extent of the law.

The Yokohama Engine and Iron Works, Limited, has a capital of \$130,000, and, having recently paid an interim dividend of ten per cent., has still a bank balance of \$89,000. It is proposed to pay a portion of this to the shareholders by making a return of capital to the extent of one half the value of the shares. At an extraordinary meeting held on the 18th December a resolution was passed altering the articles of association in such a manner as to enable this to be carried out should the step hereafter be decided upon.

According to the *Japan Herald* there is a mania for starting banks at Yokohama. The banks already lately founded are the Soda Bank, with a capital of 300,000 yen, and the Yokohama Trade Bank, having a capital of 50,000 yen; while the banks under consideration, or that have had petitions lodged for them, are the Raw Silk Bank, capital 300,000 yen, the Trade Bank, capital 300,000 yen, and the Mogi Bank, capital 1,000,000 yen, and now it is being arranged to found a bank with a capital of 500,000 yen for the convenience of tea merchants by Mr. Otani Kahei and other tea dealers.

The annual meeting of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, was held on the 28th December. The accounts showed that the credit balance of \$15,309 brought forward from the previous year had been reduced to \$12,929, the Company having spent \$2,400 more than it made. The Chairman explained, however, that this was more than set off by expenditure on the cyanide process, which had yielded no return, and that had the cost of taking down and re-erecting the old battery been charged to capital account a balance at credit of some \$18,000 might have been shown, but the directors thought it better to keep on the safe side. The report and accounts were adopted.

Appropos of the opening of Soochow and Hangchow as treaty ports, we (*N. C. Daily News*) hear that syndicates, composed of wealthy merchants and gentry of both cities, have recently petitioned their respective Governors to be allowed to establish two inland river steamboat companies to run between these two cities and Shanghai. It will be remembered that Chang Chih-tung authorised the formation of a similar company recently with the head office at Shanghai, but we learn that this is a semi-government undertaking, while the two noted above will be entirely mercantile enterprises.

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 21st inst. says:—The four Nanyang cruisers mentioned the other day as under orders to start for the north are to make a stay at Port Arthur in order to be at the orders of the Chinese Commissioners who will take over the retroceded Liaotung Peninsula from the Japanese. The squadron is now very busy taking in stores, new guns, and ample ammunition, and will be ready to start for the Gulf of Pechili on Christmas Day. These vessels will take over a battalion or two of German-drilled artillerists and a number of large and quick-firing guns of new type to make Port Arthur as defensible as circumstances permit. The squadron, joined by the torpedo gunboats *Feiyung* and *Feiting*, will also visit Kiaochow Bay. *Appropos* of the *Nanshui*, a German-built cruiser of 2,200 tons, Captain Yuan Chiu-kao, which was to have been a part of the squadron, we hear that upon being surveyed to see whether she was fit for active service in the north she was found to be in such a condition that she must be docked at the Kiangnan arsenal for a thorough overhaul and repairs. The *Chintsing*, 2,400 tons, a Foochow built ram-bowed corvette, Captain Ho Sin-chuan (who formerly served as a sub-lieutenant in the British Mediterranean fleet), will probably take the *Nanshui's* place in the north.

The *Eastern World* says:—As regards the Far East, the continued increase of Russia's military and naval forces unquestionably points to the fact that its object is to make use of them against Japan. But to Russian intentions in that direction England and Germany may also oppose an insurmountable barrier and their commercial interests would seem to require that that should be done. Japan's policy in Korea has not been a success, but there is no country that has not made equally grave mistakes at some time of her existence, and it would be an extremely shortsighted policy to passively let Japan suffer the consequences of a mistaken policy, if they affect, as they certainly will, British and German interests also. The obvious duty of those two countries therefore is to help Japan to devise a remedy, and the opportunity to come to a mutual understanding will not wait for ever. Policy demands that the discreditable incidents of the late war shall be no longer remembered, especially in view of the fact that co-operation of the three powers in a future common emergency would make their repetition impossible. There has been none of that arrogance in Japan against foreigners that it was generally predicted, and not altogether without reason, would characterise mutual intercourse after the war, and if that prophecy was publicly made, fairness and justice demand that it should be stated that it has not been fulfilled, and that everything goes on as before.

THE FRANCO-CHINESE AGREEMENT.

The French agreement with China, about which so much has been heard but the exact terms of which have hitherto been kept secret, has at last been published. The rectification of the Tonkin frontier is a matter as to which England can have no serious ground of complaint except in so far as regards the cession of one particular piece of territory which had been made over to China by England on the condition that it should never be ceded to another power; and as to that it seems Lord SALISBURY has decided to exact compensation from China by pushing forward the Burmah frontier. The incident shows, however, that it is dangerous to make any conditional agreements with China, her weakness and bad faith rendering her utterly unreliable. It is also suggestive of some doubt as to the value of the lien England holds on Chusan. That island was restored to China on condition that she should never cede it to another power, but as she has ignored that condition in the case of Kianghung so she might ignore it in the case of Chusan. In that event, against whom would England's remedy lie, or would she have any remedy at all? The point, so far as we know, is not covered by international law, and speaking on broad grounds it seems undesirable that agreements of the kind referred to should be legally recognised or, indeed, entered into, especially with a country like China. Suppose, for instance, Chusan were ceded to Germany, France, or Russia, the new owners might plead that they were not privy to the existing agreement with Great Britain and were therefore not bound by it. We would then, unless we were prepared to dispute the matter with the new owners, have to seek our remedy from China and might exact compensation in some other direction, but that would not give us back Chusan. The moral is that if Great Britain really thinks it of importance to prevent that island falling into the hands of any other power she had better at once enter upon effective occupation of it herself, which would be a very politic course to pursue. It is said that the possession of Chusan would entail heavy responsibilities without compensating advantages, that it would have to be fortified, and that in the event of war the movements of the fleet would be hampered by the necessity of protecting it. But, for the purpose of establishing British sovereignty, it would be sufficient to assume control of the administration and hoist the flag; in the event of war, if the place were not deemed of strategic importance, it could be left to take its chance, and, if it were attacked, compensation could be taken from the other side in the final settlement. We would then have at least a valid claim to the island whereas under existing conditions it is doubtful, on the precedent of Kianghung, whether other powers would respect our lien if they wanted the island for themselves.

Accompanying the Convention delimiting the frontier between Tonkin and China is a commercial Convention, by which France secures various nominal advantages, including the opening to trade of Suimao and tariff concessions as regards the frontier and transit trade. It is not easy to judge of the value of the latter from the translation of the Convention published by the *London and China Express*, which is obviously defective, but as they refer only to the trade between different points in China passing in transit through Tonkin they are not of much consequence to foreign trade. Article V.

provides that China for the exploitation of its mines in the provinces of Yunnan, Kwangsi, and Kwangtung shall address itself in the first instance to French commerce and engineers, the exploitation remaining otherwise subject to the rules and the edicts of the Imperial Government affecting national industry. Judging from the exploitation of the mines in Tonkin and Annam China could hardly apply to a worse source for assistance in the development of the mineral wealth of her southern provinces. Practically, however, the stipulation amounts to nothing except that tenders are to be invited from France if foreign assistance is desired. China is free to accept or reject such tenders, as she may see fit, and before the decision is arrived at tenders will no doubt be equally invited from other countries, which would not allow their rights under the favoured nation clause to be set aside. The same article that refers to the exploitation of mines provides also for the extension of the Annam railways into Chinese territory by mutual agreement and under conditions to be defined. In the same way it is understood that Russia is to be permitted to extend her Trans-Siberian railway into China, and when the Burmah railways reach the Chinese frontier the same question will arise with reference to them. There is therefore nothing exclusive in the advantage secured by this stipulation. Article VI. provides for the junction of the Annamite and Chinese telegraph lines. Such is the sum and substance of the Convention, on the conclusion of which the French have greatly plumed themselves, thinking apparently that they have stolen a march on England. They have certainly obtained possession of a piece of territory which was not China's to give, but by doing so they have given England occasion to take equivalent concessions and have thereby turned the balance of advantages against themselves. Commercially the Convention appears to be of little solid value and there is nothing in it to excite British envy. The abortive attempt of our Gallic neighbours to secure the exclusive right to work Chinese mines is rather amusing, but it indicates in what direction their wishes lie and suggests the necessity of England keeping a watchful eye on what is going on. For the opening up of China and its commercial development the French care little, but they would dearly like to place themselves in a position to keep England out.

HONGKONG CURRENCY.

The currency of Hongkong has never, since the foundation of the colony, been on a satisfactory basis, whether regard be had to the standard or to the subsidiary coinage. After a long experience of the much chopped and defaced Mexican dollar, an ill considered attempt was made to provide a real local currency. A Mint with very complete equipment was sent out and established at East Point during the administration of Sir HERCULES ROBINSON and commenced coining dollars and half dollars, but before it had been in existence long enough to give it a fair trial, it was decided to close the establishment, and Sir RICHARD MACDONNELL was instructed to dispose of it. The supply of Hongkong dollars was of course soon exhausted and the colony was once again left with a mutilated currency of chopped and broken Mexican coins. The Imperial Government, however, undertook the supply of a silver subsidiary coinage, and this was sent out in grudging quantities,

although there was a great constant and increasing demand for it, and its supply was very profitable. Meantime the Hongkong Mint, having been sold to the Japanese Government, was set up at Osaka, under the management of Major KINDER, who soon turned out the beautiful Japanese yen, which has since at intervals helped to supply the medium of exchange here. The Japanese subsidiary coins also, early in the eighties, came down in large quantities and flooded the colony, but they were soon placed at such a discount by the Chinese shroffs that it became unprofitable to supply them, and the public refused to receive them. The demand for small coins continued in the meantime to steadily expand, and they were absorbed in vast numbers in the southern provinces of China, while their supply afforded to the local Government a considerable revenue. Notwithstanding this fact and the urgent solicitations of the colony (in this respect a veritable *OLIVER TWIST*) for more, the Home Government continued to dole out the coins with a most chary hand, much as an anxious parent might serve out sweetmeats to a delicate child. The result was that even a Chinese official saw the chance the Downing Street authorities were throwing away. The Viceroy CHANG CHIH-TUNG started a Mint at Canton, not to provide a standard currency, as any right-minded ruler would do, but to supply subsidiary coins to the province because there was a profit to be made on the business. With the enormous fall in the value of silver, outside sources of supply of the standard currency began to fail. The American trade dollar went first, the Spanish dollar followed, and the supply of Mexicans then began to decline, and ultimately ceased, it being no longer possible to mint and ship them at the price. The Japanese yen then once more appeared in quantity, and for some time was the only source of supply. An agitation for a British trade dollar, to be coined in India, had meanwhile been effective, and after considerable delay this coin began to arrive. Soon thereafter the Government offices and the Banks refused to take the yen, and as they had some time previously shut down on the inferior Cantonese subsidiary coins, we are now in the position of having in the colony the larger portion of our circulating medium rejected at these establishments.

The Government are of course mainly responsible for the colony being flooded with an inferior foreign token, which has not only displaced the Hongkong currency but caused a large loss of revenue from the supply of subsidiary coins. In time no doubt the Japanese yen will be displaced by the British trade dollar, but meanwhile until the latter is in sufficient supply for local needs, it is most inconvenient to find the clean issue of the yen tabooed at the Bank and Public Offices. But far more serious in every way is the overflowing stream of Cantonese debased coins, readily counterfeited as they are, constantly pouring into the colony. The local currency still exists and there is room for a larger supply, but the Cantonese money is in such quantities that the Chinese are constantly striving to pay it in large sums in private transaction because, being at a discount, they are thereby able to make an irregular and practically unlawful profit. This dragon token has thoroughly displaced the local currency that for one of the Hongkong ten cent pieces there are at least twenty of the vast inferior Cantonese coins in circulation. The question arises whether this inundation should longer be encouraged, as it has been.

past, by the failure of the British Government to allow the colony a sufficient supply of subsidiary coins. It has been pressed that to take any action to prevent the import of the products of the Canton Mint would result in closing the opposite probability to the British coins, where they have found so ready a market; but is such action necessary? We hardly think so. What is needed is a plentiful and steady supply of British coins, practically unlimited until they have forced the inferior Cantonese coins out of circulation. It is time some steps should be taken to relieve the present situation and place the currency of the colony on a more creditable footing, to say nothing of providing for the facile conduct of business.

THE GOVERNOR AND CHINESE AGITATORS.

In addressing the Tung Wah Hospital Committee the other day H.E. the Governor spoke of certain agitators who were stirring up strife in the colony, whose names he knew, and with reference to whom he might deem it necessary to take certain steps if they continued their course. We do not know what steps His Excellency may have in contemplation, but no measure that the Government has it in its power to take would be too strong in the case of persons who incite their ignorant fellow countrymen to resist the law. In the late coolie strike for instance, which was in its nature a seditious movement, the Government, if it could have laid its hands on the promoters, would not only have been justified in taking the most rigorous measures possible with regard to them, but would have failed in its duty if it had not done so. Under Ordinance 8 of 1882 the Governor in Council has power to banish any one not being a natural born or naturalised subject of Her Majesty. It is not even necessary that the person banished should have been convicted of any offence in a court of law, the only proviso in his favour being that the order of banishment shall contain a statement of the grounds upon which it is made. The statement of the grounds might possibly be of service to the person affected should he wish to appeal to the Secretary of State, but, saving any instructions that might be issued upon such appeal, it is entirely within the discretion of the Governor in Council to banish any alien like whatsoever, whether of Chinese or other nationality. The power is a very great one and to be used only with great discretion, but there ought to be no hesitation in using it when there is any clear attempt to stir up resistance to the law of the colony. But between resistance to the law and a constitutional agitation for the repeal or amendment of an obnoxious law there is a wide difference and it would be lamentable indeed if the Government used its power of banishment for the purpose of restricting freedom of speech, even though the freedom may be sometimes abused. It would be well, indeed, in this colony if the Chinese could be encouraged to give a fuller expression to their opinions than they have hitherto been accustomed to do, for at present the Government has to work largely in the dark and has no reliable means of feeling the pulse of the native community. As His Excellency's remarks about taking steps against agitators were made in connection with his reference to the meeting held at the Tung Wah Hospital it may be inferred that he was thinking more particularly of the speeches made at that

meeting, although he may have intended his remarks also to have a more general application. And so far as the meeting at the Tung Wah was concerned we think the remarks were ill-advised. A good deal was said at the meeting to which exception must be taken, but it is not a principle of English law to shut a man's mouth because his views do not command the approval of the powers that be. On the contrary, free speech is recognised as one of the greatest safeguards of peace and order, because when the people are allowed to air their grievances in a constitutional manner they are less liable to break out in tumult. But if His Excellency desired to take action against the speakers at the meeting referred to he would not be able to do so under the Banishment Ordinance, because one of them is a natural born and the other a naturalised British subject. Nor would a criminal prosecution lie in connection with anything that was said at the meeting. It is not easy to see, therefore, what could be done, unless it were to strike Mr. Ho Tung's name off the Commission of the Peace, and that, we venture to predict, would not be approved by the home Government, for it would be altogether too preposterous to visit a man with any pains and penalties for speaking in favour of the repeal of an obnoxious law, even if in the heat of declamation he were betrayed into using indiscreet expressions. His Excellency recently expressed regret that after fifty-five years of intercourse with us the Chinese community remained so little anglicised. We would venture to submit for His Excellency's consideration that to fine or imprison people for taking a walk along the streets after seven o'clock in the evening or to impose restrictions on the free expression of opinion on public questions is not calculated to further the anglicising process he has at heart.

SUPREME COURT.

24th December.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FIELDING CLARKE (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

NG TAT CHI v. CHAN PUI.

Plaintiff sought to recover \$100 damages for a nuisance caused on the defendant's premises. Mr. Robinson (instructed by Mr. Ewens) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Philippo (instructed by Mr. Grist) appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Robinson said the circumstances of the case were out of the ordinary in that at the time of the writ being issued the premises which caused the nuisance belonged to the defendant, but during the interval between the serving of the writ and the filing of the petition and answer he made an assignment of his interest to certain parties. Whether that assignment was *bona fide* or not the plaintiff was not in a position to say, but the defendant had in his answer stated that he was no longer owner of the premises, and that he had no control over the management of the premises. The plaintiff had therefore amended his petition by leave of the Court, and instead of applying for an injunction he sought to recover \$100 damages. If the injunction had been applied for the plaintiff was prepared to waive the question of damages. In reply to the amended portion of the petition the defendant said that at the time of the issue of the writ the premises were not conducted in a manner offensive to his neighbours. The premises were used as a latrine and were situated at 102, Gough Street, and the plaintiff resided with his family at 12, Gough Street. Mr. R. K. Leigh, architect, had visited the latrine and he would speak of its construction and of the nuisance caused.

His Lordship—Did the plaintiff go to the nuisance, or did the nuisance go to him?

Mr. Robinson—The latrine has been open about five years, and was put up after the plaintiff went to his house, but he was unaware until recently of his means for obtaining a remedy.

Evidence in support of the plaintiff's case was then called. Mr. Leigh gave a description of the premises, and said that the latrine was not in a clean condition on any one occasion he visited it, and it was very offensive.

For the defendant Mr. Philippo called witnesses, among whom was Dr. Stedman, who said the latrine was well ventilated, and was disinfected with Jeye's fluid.

The case was adjourned until Friday.

27th December.

This case, adjourned from the 24th inst., came on again for hearing. The defendant called evidence and Mr. Philippo summed up for the defence. Mr. Robinson for the plaintiff was not called on.

In delivering judgment the Chief Justice said this was originally a suit for an injunction to restrain the defendant as part owner and occupier of No. 2, Gough Street, used as a public latrine, from causing a nuisance to the plaintiff, the owner and occupier of No. 12, Aberdeen Street, but after the filing of the petition the defendant assigned his interest of No. 2, Gough Street and the petition was amended by the abandoning of the claim to an injunction and the substitution of a demand for nominal damages. Whether the assignment pleaded by the defendant was a *bona fide* one in the sense of being a real parting with his interest was a matter open to doubt. The defence had said they would call the assignee, but they had not done so, and it was proved that the defendant was still actively interested in the latrine as lessee. This case was exactly similar to one that had been tried by himself in respect of a latrine in West Street in 1894. In that case there had been a non-joinder of necessary parties, but the case on the merits had been fully argued and he had delivered a written judgment stating his opinion that a nuisance had been established. Subsequently the case had come before the Court again, Mr. Goodman being Acting Chief Justice, and he had delivered a written judgment to the same effect, and an injunction had been granted. Regarding this case as one of considerable public importance he should in ordinary circumstances have delivered a written judgment, but in view of those two judgments formally recorded he thought that might be dispensed with. In this case the same arguments had been used as in that of the West Street case. In spite of evidence to the contrary on one particular occasion it might be admitted that this latrine at No. 2, Gough Street, had been in general as well kept as was possible; the fact that it was subject to daily inspection went to prove that. But looking at the relative positions of the plaintiff's and defendant's premises, the particulars of which had been detailed by Mr. Leigh, he could not doubt but that it was probable, as stated by the plaintiff, that the offensive gases from the ventilators got into his house and caused him material discomfort; in fact it seemed to his Lordship a necessary consequence during the south-west monsoon. As he had already stated in his judgment on the West Street case in commenting on the plea that these latrines were of public necessity, that was no excuse in law for a man inflicting a nuisance on his neighbour, though it might be a good reason for the legislature taking away the right of action, of course after making due provision for the protection of private interests. The plaintiff's case had been very moderately presented; there had been no allegations of special loss of trade, or of particular sickness, or loss of tenants; but he had no doubt that the plaintiff had suffered material discomfort, and that was the point. In consequence of evidence given counsel for the plaintiff had suggested that he was entitled to amend the petition and claim an injunction, but his Lordship thought that for the present the common law remedy would be sufficient, seeing, as he had already hinted, that if after a verdict for nominal damages the defendant should

create a nuisance the plaintiff would be in a position to sue for exemplary damages as well as for an injunction. As for costs, as the defendant had disputed the fact of a nuisance and had only relied on grounds already covered by two decided cases he should allow costs as usual in Original Jurisdiction. Judgment for plaintiff for \$20 damages and costs.

"DANDY DICK" AT THE THEATRE ROYAL.

We have become so accustomed to look to our Amateur Dramatic Club for a pantomime at Christmas time that the absence of a performance of that character this year seems to leave something wanting in the celebration of the festive season. It has been thought advisable, however, to let the pantomime field lie fallow for a time, and this season the Club is confining its attention to farcical comedy and comic opera. On Thursday night (26th Dec.) Pinero's farce "Dandy Dick" was produced and afforded amusement to a large audience. The piece is full of genuine humour and affords good opportunities to the principal characters, and Mrs. Alfred Wrottesley's impersonation of Georgiana Tidman will be remembered as one of the cleverest things ever seen on the amateur stage in Hongkong.

For those unacquainted with the piece a brief description of the plot may be of interest. The Very Rev. Augustin Jedd, D.D., the Dean of St. Marvells, has two daughters, whose dress-maker's bills cause him some annoyance, especially at the time the play opens, when he has rashly promised to give a thousand pounds for the repair of the cathedral spire provided seven others will come forward with a similar amount. He hopes they won't, but they do, and as he has not got a thousand pounds in ready cash his position is somewhat embarrassed. His daughters Salome and Sheba are carrying on a flirtation with Major Tarver and Mr. Darbey, of the 11th Hussars, quartered at Durnstone, and have arranged to attend a fancy dress ball with them without the Dean's knowledge. In the meantime the Dean has received a letter from his widowed sister Georgiana Tidman, from whom he had been estranged for a number of years, saying she is coming to stay with him. He professes to be glad at the thought of the estrangement and hopes the lady will be a mother to his daughters. During the morning Georgiana herself appears, bursting in on the Deanery as a thoroughgoing sporting lady, in the homiest of costumes, and with very unconventional manners. Her late husband had been a gentleman rider and since his death Georgiana herself has been running horses under the racing name of George Tid. The Durnstone races are about to take place, and Sir Tristram Mardon, Bart., who has entered a horse in which he has a half share, comes down to attend them and calls on his old college chum the Dean, who, however, is not very pleased to be reminded of his college escapades in the genially frank style of the Baronet, who ignores the clerical staidness of his old friend. Georgiana Tidman and Sir Tristram are also old friends and kindred spirits, but neither had expected to meet the other at the Deanery, and their meeting is therefore a pleasant surprise to both. It turns out that the other share in the Baronet's horse, "Dandy Dick," though held in someone else's name, really belongs to Georgiana, and as the animal is considered a dead certainty for the handicap both are in high spirits at the prospect and the Dean is recommended to get over his financial straits by putting a little on. While professing horror at the proposal he gradually succumbs to the temptation and secretly arranges with his butler, Blore, to execute the commission for him. During the course of the evening the Swan Inn, where Dandy Dick is stabled, catches fire, and the horse is hurriedly brought to the Deanery stables, where he is accorded hospitality, although Dr. Jedd is much perturbed at the prospect of being held up to ridicule as a sporting Dean. He is very much interested in the horse, however, for financial reasons, and after the other inmates of the house have retired he proceeds to make up a bolus for it as a cure for a possible chill it is thought the animal may have sustained by getting wet while

water was being thrown on the fire at the Swan Inn. He has to get the butler to assist him, and Blore, being privately interested in another horse in the same event, takes the opportunity to surreptitiously introduce strychnine into the bolus. The Dean having put on Sir Tristram's coat and cap steals forth to administer the medicine, is caught in the act, and is marched off to St. Marvells' police station, where the officer in charge is a new man unacquainted with Dr. Jedd. Hannah Topping, the policeman's wife, however, has formerly been a cook at the Deanery and while her husband is supposed to be out of the way regales him with a portion of her husband's dinner. Topping appears while the Dean is taking his meal and promptly charges him with alienating his wife's affections. Sir Tristram and Georgiana discover that the man arrested while trying to doctor the horse is the Dean and proceed to the police station to arrange for his release, but Topping insists on taking him to Durnstone. Unable to effect their purpose in that way, therefore, they arrange a rescue while the prisoner is being taken over. Dandy Dick, who had not swallowed the poisoned bolus, wins the race, and although the butler had not put the Dean's money on as directed, Georgiana, being a large winner, is able to help him over his financial difficulties, and all ends well. Topping recognises the Dean as his escaped prisoner, but is assured by all the other parties concerned that he is mistaken in his identification, and has to give way to the weight of evidence. The piece is full of absurd situations and the dialogue is amusing throughout.

The following was the cast:—

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|--|----------------------------|
| The Very Rev. Augustin Jedd, D.D. | Mr. C. H. Grace. |
| (The Dean of St. Marvells)..... | |
| Salome (His Daughter)..... | Mrs. J. Andrew. |
| Sheba (His Daughter)..... | Miss M. Dick Melbourne. |
| Georgiana Tidman (His Sister)..... | Mrs. A. Wrottesley. |
| Blore (Butler at the Deanery)..... | Capt. Burney, R.A. |
| Sir Tristram Mardon, Bart. Mr. V. A. Caesar Hawkins. | |
| Hatcham (His Groom)..... | Mr. W. S. Frowd, R.N. |
| Major Tarver (11th Hussars)..... | Dr. F. Clark. |
| Quartered at Durnstone)..... | |
| Mr. Darbey..... | Mr. A. C. Manners. |
| Noah Topping..... | Mr. S. L. Darby. |
| (Constable at St. Marvells)..... | |
| Hannah Topping (his Wife)..... | Mrs. V. A. Caesar Hawkins. |

As the Very Rev. Augustin Jedd, D.D., Mr. Grace had a part that suited him well, though there is not quite so much in it as in the part of Mr. Pocket in "The Magistrate," in which this popular and versatile gentleman made such a success eight months ago. The character is not quite a natural one, but such as it is Mr. Grace treated it well and gave a very humorous representation of the smug Dean who allowed his practice to diverge so widely from his professed principles. As Georgiana Tidman Mrs. Wrottesley proved herself a most competent actress and represented the racing lady to the life, never losing a point, and the applause she received was loud and frequent. Her description of how the rescue of her brother was effected was an exceptionally fine piece of humorous elocution. Mr. V. A. Caesar Hawkins, as Sir Tristram Mardon, gave an excellent representation of the sporting and gentlemanly Baronet. As Noah Topping, the policeman, Mr. S. L. Darby scored a great success. We have been accustomed to see Mr. Darby in old gentlemen's parts and always knew that whatever he essayed in that line would be well done, but it was rather a surprise to see him to such advantage as a sturdy village constable, short tempered and slow witted. The part could not have been placed in better hands. The part of Blore, the butler at the Deanery, found a good exponent in Capt. Burney, R.A., who acted the plausible but self-seeking old servitor to the life. These were the principal characters in the piece. Of the minor characters we do not propose to speak in detail; some were good and some were very much otherwise, and as frank criticism of the latter would be unpleasant all round those included in the first category will perhaps not object to keep their less competent fellow-players company amongst the unmentioned. The field of selection open to the Committee is not a very extensive one, it is true, but in arranging the cast for the next piece we hope it may be found possible to improve on that for "Dandy

Dick." Although a distinct success, owing to the talent displayed in the principal characters and also in some of the minor ones, it must be confessed that several of the situations of the day night might have been much improved there been no "detrimentals."

The Acting Manager was Mr. H. C. N. and the Stage Manager Mr. E. W. Mit. The staging was all that could be wished for. New scenery had been painted by Mr. J. Baptista. By kind permission of Colonel Paul and officers, the Band of the Rifle Brigade played the following programme during the evening under the conductorship of Mr. Peachey:—

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Overture..... | "The Shop Girl"..... | Carroll. |
| Selection..... | "La Fille du Regiment"..... | Donizetti. |
| Valse..... | "Visions D'Amour"..... | Delbruck. |
| March..... | "Tivoli"..... | Schroder. |

The second production of "Dandy Dick" by the Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club on Saturday night (Dec. 28th) at the Theatre Royal drew a large audience. The performance went off quite smoothly and the audience were during the evening continually roaring with laughter and venting their warm enthusiasm by applauding loudly.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT THE GOVERNMENT CIVIL HOSPITAL.

The patients at the Government Civil Hospital were entertained on the afternoon of Christmas Day by a most enjoyable concert, given in ward No. 11. The room was prettily decorated with flags kindly lent by the Naval Yard and the Harbour Master. Amongst the visitors present were H.E. the Governor, Mr. C. C. Platt, Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Hon. F. A. Cooper, Hon. Captain and Mrs. Hastings, the Russian Admiral and his Flag Lieutenant, Surgeon-Colonel Preston, Madame The O'Gorman, Rev. R. F. Cobbold, Rev. R. Permi, Rev. W. Musson, Mr. J. Jackson, Mr. C. Ford, Mr. G. B. Dodwell, Dr. and Mrs. Doberck, Captain Welman, Mrs. Pemberton, Mr. Granville Sharp, Mr. and Mrs. Tooker, Mr. H. C. Nicolle, Major Thomas, and others. Mrs. Goodman accompanied most of the songs. The following was the programme:—

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| PART I. | |
| Overture..... | "Adèle"..... L.S. |
| Miss Eyre. | |
| Song..... | "Herrings are in the bay"..... Mollie |
| Mr. W. E. Crow. | |
| Vocal Duet..... | "In the dusk of the Twilight" Offenbach |
| Mrs. A. P. Welman and Mrs. Cooper. | |
| Song..... | "The Romany Lass"..... S. Adams |
| Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart. | |
| Violin Solo..... | "Air Varié"..... Bellini |
| Master M. Robinson. | |
| Song..... | "The Old Countrie"..... Pinsuti |
| Mrs. Craddock. | |
| Song..... | "Appy 'Ampstead"..... Chevalier |
| Mr. A. H. Grayson, R.A. | |
| INTERVAL OF TEN MINUTES. | |
| PART II. | |
| Overture..... | Mrs. Clark. |
| Song..... | "An Old English Song"..... Bishop. |
| Hon. W. M. Goodman. | |
| Song..... | "Douglas Gordon"..... L. Kellie. |
| Mrs. A. P. Welman. | |
| Song..... | "Mrs. Hawkins"..... Chevalier. |
| Mr. A. H. Grayson, R.A. | |
| Violin Solo..... | "Study"..... B. Tours. |
| Master M. Robinson. | |
| Song..... | "If I had a thousand a year"..... Anon. |
| Mr. Spriggs. | |
| Part Song..... | "Christmas Song"..... Anon. |
| Mr. and Mrs. Goodman, Mrs. Welman, Mrs. Cooper, and Mr. Crow. | |
| Both Mr. Grayson's songs were encored. | |

MESSRS. CARLOWITZ & CO'S JUBILEE.

The representatives of the firm of Messrs. Carlowitz and Co., merchants, entertained the China merchants who have had business transactions with them to dinner on Saturday evening, the 28th December, at the Tsui Hing Hotel, Possession Street, on the occasion of the celebration of the firm's jubilee. The rooms of the hotel were tastefully decorated with flags and flowers, and the whole building was brilliantly illuminated with Chinese lanterns. The whole

members of the firm in Hongkong were present. The Chinese numbered about two hundred and fifty, representing the various branches of trade, and they were entertained by Chinese marionettes and music.

On the request of the Chinese guests, Mr. Ng Kwai Shang, Secretary to the Chief Manager of Messrs. Wingkee & Co., was selected as spokesman.

Mr. P. Sachse, having shaken hands with his guests, the spokesman stepped forward and said—Mr. Sachse and members of the noble house of Messrs. Carlowitz and Co. It is my most pleasing duty to address you on behalf of the Chinese merchants of this colony who have had business transactions with your firm for several years and who are invited here this evening by your noble house to celebrate the jubilee anniversary of your establishment in China. There are other gentlemen who would be far better able to perform this very pleasant task than myself, but I hope you will excuse any shortcomings on my part. Gentlemen, the address which I will presently read will convey our real sentiments and feelings on this auspicious occasion, and it is unnecessary for me to say more. With your permission I will now read the address:—

Hongkong, 23th December, 1895.

To Messrs. Carlowitz & Co., Merchants, Ice House Street, Hongkong.

Gentlemen,—We the undersigned merchants, compradores, and traders, residents of Hongkong, who have had business dealings with your good-selves for very many years past, desire, on your celebrating the Jubilee of your firm, to offer you our hearty congratulations and to express the high regard and esteem we entertain for you.

We have found you straightforward, very obliging, and most liberal in all your transactions with us and we very greatly appreciate the courteous treatment we have always received at your hands.

The numerous signatures appearing in the appended lists, representing the business class of the Chinese community, will afford you the best testimony of the widespread appreciation entertained of your business transactions in Hongkong.

In conclusion we trust that our connections with your firm will be ever increasing and we earnestly wish you and the individual members of your firm health, wealth, and prosperity.—We remain, your most obedient servants,

(Here follow signatures.)

Mr. NG KWAI SHANG then proposed the toast of Messrs. Carlowitz & Co., wishing them success in all their undertakings, coupled with the name of Mr. Sachse.

The toast was drunk amidst enthusiastic cheering.

Mr. SACHSE replied as follows:—My Chinese friends, it affords me great pleasure to thank you heartily for having accepted our invitation to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the firm of Carlowitz and Co. in China with us and I beg to thank you likewise, Mr. Ng Kwai Shang, for the kind words you have spoken with reference to the firm and myself, and I also beg to thank you all for the kind way in which you have received this toast. Fifty years are a very long period in human life and among us assembled here, who number over two hundred and fifty persons, there are hardly ten or fifteen men who have reached that age. When in 1840 the beautiful island of Hongkong was ceded to Great Britain by the Chinese Government some enterprising Germans left the shores of the Fatherland for the southern part of China. The most prominent amongst them were Mr. von Carlowitz, Mr. Siamssen, and Mr. Pustau, and so in 1841 old Mr. R. von Carlowitz came out via the Cape of Good Hope in a schooner deeply laden with goods manufactured in Germany and went straight up to Whampoa, where he exchanged his goods for articles of China produce, such as gallnuts, musk, cassia, tea, and silk, thereby establishing a regular trade between China and Germany. On the 1st January, 1846, Mr. von Carlowitz founded the house of Carlowitz & Co. at Canton; he retired in 1873 and died in 1886. He was very successful in his business transactions with the Chinese and established another branch at Hongkong in 1866, to be followed by another at Shanghai in 1877, another at Tientsin in 1886, another at Hamburg in 1887, another at Hankow in 1891, and another at Newchwang in 1895, so that our firm now has seven branches in all.

However, that our firm has been prosperous and successful, our thanks are in a very great measure due to the Chinese, who have supported us largely in our export, import, shipping, and insurance departments, and who have stuck to us in friendship and faithfulness, and when on this occasion I express my heartiest thanks to the Chinese merchants and traders for all they have done towards us in the past, I sincerely trust that they will in future also favour us with their valuable support and stick to us in friendship and faithfulness as hitherto. In expressing my heartiest thanks once more I wish you all prosperity, a flourishing trade, and long life and happiness.

Mr. FRANCIS TSE YAT, Chief Manager of Wingkee & Co., replied to this toast on behalf of the guests in a very few well selected words.

Several other toasts were then drunk and the proceedings terminated with a toast to the health of Mr. Man Kwong Thin, compradore of Messrs. Carlowitz & Co.

The following was the bill of fare: 1. bird's nest; 2. sharks' fins with crabs; 3. béche de mer and pigeon; 4. boiled pigeon eggs; 5. turtle with almond soup; 6. fish maw; 7. roast fowl; 8. stewed fungus; 9. boiled shell-fish and scallions; 10. fried pork; 11. minced quail; 12. fried chicken and ham; 13. stewed champignons with chicken; 14. crabs and chrysanthemum; 15. garoupa; 16. stewed seaweed; 17. fried prawns and bamboo shoots; 18. chicken juice and green vegetables; 19. partridge gruel; desert, pastry, and tea.

THE MISSIONS TO SEAMEN TEA AND MEETING.

The annual tea and meeting in connection with the Hongkong branch of the Missions to Seamen was held on the night of the 27th Dec. in the Sailors' Home. About 150 persons sat down to tea, after which Commodore Boyes presided at the meeting. The room, which had been prettily decorated, was packed and the proceedings were pleasantly interspersed with carols by the choir and songs by ladies and gentlemen.

The CHAIRMAN said he was glad to see so many present who were interested in the successful working of the mission, and it was gratifying to know how many seamen of the merchant service had attended the different services. To Mr. Iliff and all those who had supported him the sincerest thanks were due; the good work done by them was not altogether apparent even to those closely connected with the mission; the real amount of good done was known only to God. Many men had been able through the efforts of the mission to preserve their self respect; they were able to distinguish what was good from what was bad; in the moment of temptation they had done what was good. We had all done good and bad actions. Take the good actions, and forget the bad. Perhaps only one or two knew of the good ones, such as being generous, charitable, and kind. Perhaps the deer had had no reward and not many thanks, but in times of sickness it was a great solace to him to know that he had done worthy acts towards others. Everyone hoped that Mr. Goldsmith would benefit by the holiday he was now taking in England. When he left Hongkong he could scarcely speak; he was pale and thoroughly worn out, and the work had so fatigued him that he (the speaker) thought he would never be well enough to return. Everyone wished him good health and strength. (Applause). There was a great necessity for building in Hongkong an institute similar to the one in Kowloon, where men could go and get a good meal, a bed, and a read without spending anything for the "good of the house;" where they would not spend a lot of money on liquor which perhaps they did not want. Mr. Goldsmith was now busily engaged in collecting subscriptions in England towards the funds necessary for the erection of such a needed building, and it was to be sincerely hoped that the money would soon be forthcoming. (Applause).

Mr. MAKEHAM then read the following report:—

The year that is now drawing to a close presents a contrast to 1894, for which we must be deeply thankful—the almost total absence of the plague epidemic. Much sickness has, how-

ever, prevailed amongst the European community, and the work of the mission has necessarily suffered through the illness of Mr. Goldsmith, in the first instance, and from the attacks of fever to which both the acting chaplain and the reader have been subject.

The most important event of the year has been the opening of the Kowloon institute, which took place on 2nd April, thus providing a suitable building for the recreation both of the naval and merchant seamen while on that side of the harbour, as well as for the troops stationed at Kowloon. The Institute was declared open by H.E. the Governor, who was supported on the platform by his Excellency the General Officer Commanding, Commodore Boyes, R.N., the Right Reverend Bishop Burdon, D.D., and others. After the opening ceremony a tea and social evening were provided for about 200 men. We are glad to say that the building has now for some time been free from debt.

On 11th April the Rev. A. G. Goldsmith left for England, for a period of much needed rest and change. It is with much thankfulness that we have since learnt of his complete restoration to health.

The work afloat has been carried on as in former years. Services have been held wherever practicable. A new departure has been made in the holding of regular services on board the *Empress* steamers on Sunday afternoons. The acting chaplain has, however, felt the difficulty of taking up the threads of a work which has been the growth of nearly ten years' labour, and he trusts that allowance has been made by the officers and men with whom he has come in contract for any apparent shortcomings.

A long felt want in the reading room at the Sailor's Home has been recently supplied in the present of a new piano, through the kindness of several ladies and others, and the weekly gatherings have been greatly improved thereby.

The Tuesday social evenings have been continued without intermission throughout the year and our warmest acknowledgments are due to the many friends who have so kindly and willingly provided these entertainments.

On Christmas afternoon a party of about seventy seamen from the Sailors' Home and ships in port went in a launch to Little Hongkong, returning in time for a Christmas tea provided by the Home, followed by an entertainment in the reading room. The brig *Star* once again appeared in port and in the course of the evening discharged her cargo.

The Mission launch *Dayspring* continues to do valuable service in the harbour. The Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. have again docked and thoroughly overhauled her. For this and many other kind services we give them our warmest thanks.

We also desire to record our thanks to those who have contributed by gifts of coal and in other ways towards the working expenses of the little craft, and to Mr. G. B. Dodwell and Mr. E. Osborne for the kind loan of a launch while the *Dayspring* was laid up. To the many friends who have assisted the work by gifts of periodicals, newspapers, &c., we are extremely grateful. Good magazines, &c., are much needed, first for use in the reading rooms and afterwards to be sent to sea.

The "Star" coffee house continues to be well patronised by seamen when on shore from their ships. The smallness of the premises is, however, a great drawback and considerably impairs the usefulness of such a necessary resort for those who are "strangers in a distant land." Mr. Goldsmith is endeavouring to raise funds in England so that a more suitable building may be obtained. About £2,600 is needed for this purpose.

To all those who have contributed in any way towards the support of the Mission we tender our warmest thanks. In conclusion, we ask the prayers of all our friends that the "Lord may indeed go before us" and that all our work may be "begun, continued, and ended in Him."

STATISTICS.—Ships visited, 1,329; Mission helpers enrolled, 1; Mission associates enrolled, 1; Temperance men enrolled, 172; bibles sold, 36; prayer books sold, 3; bags of reading distributed, 180; seamen attendances at Divine Service (including daily morning prayers), 7,764; Temperance meetings, 2,991; Tuesday concerts, 4,906; services afloat, 1,006; seamen communicants, 98; seamen using *Dayspring*

to attend Sunday services, 1281; to attend week night meetings, 2,413; Kowloon (branch) Institute, visitors, 2,469.

A letter was also read from Mr. Goldsmith, who wrote a special message of advice to seamen.

The Rev. O. R. HUGHES, chaplain on H.M.S. *Mercury*, delivered an interesting address, in which he reviewed the work of the year, and mentioned that he believed Mr. Goldsmith had already £150 towards the £2,600 required for the new Institute in Hongkong.

A vote of thanks to Commodore Boyes concluded a most pleasant evening's entertainment, which was evidently greatly appreciated by the many seamen who were present.

THE PLAGUE.

28th December.

Since last Tuesday four Chinese have died from plague and two Portuguese patients are now in the hospital. The first case came from Third Street, the second from Rutter Street, the third and fourth from First Street, and the last two patients, one of whom is a child and the other a female of advanced age, from a house in Mosque Junction. But the public need not be in the least alarmed, because the cases were isolated and it is to be expected that such cases will be cropping up now and again. The Sanitary Board officials have of course taken measures to disinfect the houses, and they are now busy in making a house to house inspection in First, Second, and Third Streets, the area which was one of the hotbeds of the disease last year.

30th December.

The Portuguese boy who was taken from a house in Mosque Junction suffering from plague died on the night of the 27th December at the Kennedytown Hospital.

PUNJOM MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The fourth ordinary general meeting of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, was held in the offices, Connaught House, on the 28th December at 11 a.m. Mr. R. Shewan presided, and there were present Messrs. R. Cooke, J. H. Lewis, W. R. Loxley (Directors), Captain Tillett, Messrs. G. Holmes, S. B. Bahha, R. C. Wilcox, G. Murray Bain, R. M. Mehta, E. W. Terry, J. R. Michael, M. B. Polishwalla, E. Georg, G. C. Cox, C. A. Toines, Hart Buck, J. H. Cox, R. Mitchell, and J. B. Duncan (Secretary).

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and accounts having been in your hands for some days will with your permission be taken as read. We should like to have had them sent out a little sooner, but Mr. Blamey's report being rather a lengthy one, the printing and getting them out took more time than we anticipated. The net result of the year's work is that the credit balance of \$15,309 brought forward from last year's account has been reduced to \$12,929, or in other words we have spent about \$2,400 more than we made. This is, however, more than offset by the item of \$3,077 for cyanide working, which brought us no return, so that we have actually just covered our working expenses. Nothing has been spent on or charged to capital beyond about \$9,252 for completing the establishment of the cyanide plant, raising the total first cost of same to \$20,708. The only other item in the balance sheet I think I need refer to is that of unpaid calls amounting to \$3,319, all for the final call. This has since been reduced to \$294 and the shareholders from whom this is due have received notice that their shares will be forfeited. I may explain that the amounts of \$1.75 and \$16 for second and third calls were actually paid long ago, but could not be credited to capital through informalities in connection with the scrip, otherwise, of course, the shares would have been forfeited ere this. Some of you may perhaps wonder how the value of estate has risen from \$152,000 to \$155,800, but it is merely a matter of bookkeeping, the difference being the \$2.50 credited as paid up on shares which were not taken up and which were sold during the year and which \$2.50 was the payment by

the new Company to the old Company for the property it took over. Turning to the working account, the item of administration in last year's accounts has been abolished and I think the various heads of expenditure are now so stated that shareholders can have little difficulty in seeing where the money has gone. The general expenses, &c., at Punjom, amounting to \$12,850, seem rather high and are now being gone carefully into with Mr. Blamey. The other items I think fully explain themselves, but if there are any which shareholders do not understand I shall be very glad if they will draw my attention to them. The cost of mining and milling has risen to \$113,521 as against \$89,879 last year, or an increase of about \$24,000, but this is natural, as we have mined and milled a much larger quantity of ore, while on the other hand, owing to the inferior quality of the stone, our receipts by sales of gold have decreased from \$183,278 to \$160,000, or a falling off of \$23,000, making a total of about \$47,000, which is just equal to the difference of \$46,704 which we were able to write off last year. Our other expenses have therefore been about the same, but when we remember the much greater amount of work that has been done at Punjom as detailed in Mr. Blamey's report, I think we may fairly take credit for having done something towards keeping down expenses there. The cost of taking down and re-erecting the old battery, which has been made as good as new, might have been charged to capital, in which case we could have shown a balance at credit of some \$18,000, but your directors decided to resist the temptation and to keep on the safe side by showing the smaller profit. Not being a mining expert I will not attempt to go into the technical details of Mr. Blamey's report, but as you will observe with satisfaction he estimates our ore reserves at 20,000 tons and as you know from last month's crushing and from his recent letters the quality of the ore has improved considerably. It is to be hoped that this more favourable state of things may continue, but it has been so often a matter of hope deferred and so many confident anticipations have been doomed to disappointment that it does not do for us to be very sanguine this time. However, if this month's crushing equals last we may perhaps feel entitled to take a more cheerful view of our prospect in the future. I now come to our great disappointment—the cyanide process. All of you are pretty well conversant with the facts—the non-results, not to mention the extra expenses we have been put to, of the chemist's trials of the process, the sending for an expert, the best man the Cassells Company had got in their own employ, to come out and investigate the causes of the failure to recover the gold in the tailings, and his return home from Singapore on the score of ill-health without even proceeding to the mines, so I will not go further into them. (The Chairman here read the certificate of the Singapore doctor with regard to the expert, which the press was requested not to publish.) We are now in communication by wire with our own agents in London and through them with Mr. Gillies, your late Chairman, and the Cassells Company about getting out another man at once and can but trust we shall have better luck this next time. If the man we require is not to be had at home we shall try Australia and South Africa, where the process is well known, and we can only assure you in this regard that no pains will be spared on our part to protect your interest and save further loss of time and money. Mr. White, the chemist in charge at Punjom, will in the meantime proceed with his experiments, being guided by such hints and directions as Mr. Mitchell, the expert from home, was able to send him before the former's departure from Singapore. With regard to Mr. White himself, your Directors have fully shared the keen disappointment which has attended Mr. White's work so far, but at the same time we must not condemn him or the Cassells Co., to whom we shall of course look for redress, too hastily, for his want of success. No doubt the conditions under which he has had to work are very different from those in South Africa or Australia and due allowance must be made for this. Many of the Rand mines which are now so successful found

much difficulty at first in treating their ore by the cyanide process, and in a valuable and interesting work on these mines by Messrs. Hatch and Chalmers, entitled the "Gold Mines of the Rand," I notice that although the first demonstrations of the process began in June, 1890, it does not seem to have been actually in work till 1891, in which year 35,000 oz. of gold were recovered by the process. To prove to you the value of the process and how quickly it was taken up, as well as to satisfy you of the wisdom of our following up our attempts to get it started at Punjom, in spite of all the obstacles and disappointments we have so far met with, I give you the figures of the Rand outputs for the following years, viz.:

| Year | 1892 | 1893 | 1894 |
|--------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Output (oz.) | 160,168 | 304,498 | 587,388 |
| Value (£) | 502,408 | 938,870 | 1,772,472 |

which I think must convince the most sceptical on the subject. It may be that the cause of all our trouble will prove a very simple one, and on this point I observe from the same work that "the mechanical preparations of the pulp for the cyanide treatment is a very much more important operation than is ordinarily supposed by reason of the losses of gold unaccountable in many cases which have been brought out in the working of the process." It is just such an unaccountable loss of gold that we are suffering from now and the reason for which will no doubt be discovered at Punjom as it was on the Rand, where in time one obstacle after another was encountered and vanquished until now, when it is expected that the end of 1896 will see the majority of all the large wet crushing mills on the Witwatersrand obtaining over 90 per cent. of their gold at a cost of not exceeding 7s. per ton for metallurgical operations, that is, crushing and amalgamation and cyaniding. On such a basis of cost as this and an outturn of say 5 dwts per ton of tailings, which our assays and experiments show to be a very safe estimate indeed, we would recover 250 oz. of gold per month over and above our ordinary winnings, and I need not tell you what such a result as that would mean for us. When the process was first mooted I was, as many of you know, one of those who deprecated rushing into it without sufficient funds in hand, and just as I was against undue haste then so we would ask you now not to be too ready to condemn the process without giving it a fair trial all round. It has cost us nearly \$25,000 so far, and it says something for the resources of the Company that it was able to provide this money with the assistance of a call of only \$15,000. I will not detain you further, gentlemen, beyond remarking that we have every reason to be satisfied with the way in which Mr. Blamey and his assistants have done their work and attended to your interests at the mines, and assuring you that your directors on their part are doing all in their power to make the Company a successful dividend paying one. Some talk there has been of selling part of our concession at home, but I think that until we can make some money for ourselves and prove to the public that our concession can really be worked at a good profit we may defer the consideration of all such schemes for the present. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any question you may have to put to me.

MR. MEHTA—I should like to know if there is any scheme under the consideration of the Board for the development of Gubau, because it gave very promising results and was very highly spoken of by Mr. Blamey. As no mention is made of it to-day in the directors' report or in the manager's report I would invite the special attention of the Board to this matter. I think the locality, so far, has been unduly ignored by the Board.

THE CHAIRMAN—The locality you refer to has not been ignored by the Board. You are referring to Gubau?

MR. MEHTA—To Gubau, yes. There were very promising results some time ago—two or three years ago.

THE CHAIRMAN—I thought you said it had been ignored by the Board.

MR. MEHTA—The Board does not seem to have paid much attention to it.

THE CHAIRMAN—The Board has always had Gubau in their mind, but if they want to work it they would have to spend a lot of money

regulations, and we do at Jalis in the meantime. You know, the Board has not enough money for the work at present. We shall be very glad to sell Guban to someone who has money.

Mr. MEHTA—If we are not successful in selling it what will be done?

The CHAIRMAN—We have no money to work it.

Mr. MEHTA—Before, it was worked very well and paid expenses.

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, it looked very well, but it had to be stopped for want of funds. As soon as we are in a position to do so we shall work it. We have got the cyanide process on our hands and we must utilise it first and then we will take up Guban or any other part of the concession that looks well. Nearly every week the question of Guban comes up at the Board meeting.

Mr. MEHTA—I drew your attention to it because—

The CHAIRMAN—I am very glad you did.

Mr. MEHTA—That is all right, then. There was an impression that the Board had neglected Guban.

The CHAIRMAN—I am very glad you did mention the matter as there is such an impression.

Captain TILLET—As it seems that the cyanide process, though it may be a very good thing in the future, has up to the present time almost landed us in bankruptcy, I think it would be a very good thing for the shareholders, as it is absolutely necessary to study economy at the present time, if you would let us know how much expenditure we are to be put to with regard to this Mr. Mitchell. It is evident he could not have been in a fit state to come out when he did. Are we to pay for his passage?

The CHAIRMAN—We do not intend to be put to any expense on account of Mr. Mitchell.

Captain TILLET—We shall have to pay and get the money refunded afterwards, I suppose?

The CHAIRMAN—We have already paid some of it in London. I had rather you had brought the matter up privately. The real amount will come out of the money which we hope we shall have to pay later on to the Cassells Company; if we do not get it that way we shall have to go to law about it. I can assure you we do not intend to pay that money if we can help it.

Captain TILLET—In that case I will not say anything more about it. There is another point I should like to bring forward, as it is absolutely necessary to study economy at the present time. I notice we are employing two secretaries practically at the present time. Are the shareholders to pay for that?

The CHAIRMAN—I explained to you privately some time ago that two secretaries are costing us the same as one secretary before.

Captain TILLET—I don't remember you telling me that.

The CHAIRMAN—I assure you I did, at the Club. The arrangements were made with Mr. Potts for the assistance of Mr. Duncan, and we are not paying more than we were before. Mr. Duncan is keeping the books and as soon as possible Mr. Potts will withdraw, so that there will be a considerable saving to the Company.

Captain TILLET—Of course, so long as the Company is put to no extra expense there is nothing more to be said.

Mr. WILCOX—I hope when the new man comes out he will come out under a medical certificate; that ought to be a stipulation.

The CHAIRMAN—I think so, Mr. Wilcox. We will keep that point in mind when the engagement is made.

The CHAIRMAN—If there are no more questions I propose the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. J. H. COX seconded.

Carried.

Mr. BABHA proposed the re-election of Messrs. Shewan and Lewis as directors.

Mr. WILCOX seconded.

Carried.

Mr. G. HOLMES proposed the re-election of the auditors, Messrs. F. Henderson and W. H. Gaskell.

Captain TILLET seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business before the meeting, gentlemen.

The following is the report:—

The directors beg to submit the annexed accounts for the year ending 30th September, 1895, showing a balance remaining at credit of working account of \$12,929.79.

CAPITAL.

As the Company was running short of funds owing to the extra expenditure entailed in connection with the erection and working of the cyanide plant, it was found necessary to make the final call of 25 cents per share, which accordingly became payable on September 3rd last.

MINING AND MILLING.

Much good work coming under this heading has been done at Punjom during the year, full particulars and details of which will be found in the manager's report.

The total crushing of ore and headings amount to 12,541 tons last year, but owing to the poorer quality of the ore the total yield of gold is less, viz., 4,682 oz. against 5,554 oz. in 1894. The quality of the ore extracted has, however, much improved lately and corresponding increase in the outturn of gold is expected in future.

CYANIDE PROCESS.

This so far has proved a great disappointment. Practically no results have been obtained from the trials made and as the chemist in charge seemed unable to explain the exact cause of failure arrangements were made with the Cassells Company at home, the patentees, to send out their chief expert to make enquiries and experiments on the spot. This gentleman arrived at Singapore on December 5th, but was immediately ordered home again by his medical adviser on account of his health, and the directors have had no other course open to them than to reopen negotiations for a fresh man in his place. The consequent waste of time and money is greatly to be deplored.

BATTERY.

The old 12 head of stamps has been taken down and thoroughly overhauled and re-erected, so that there are now the full 22 heads of stamps in good working order.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. D. Gillies resigned on leaving the colony and Mr. R. Cooke was elected in his place. Mr. W. R. Loxley has also accepted a seat on the Board at the invitation of the directors. In accordance with Article 104 Messrs. R. Shewan and J. H. Lewis retire, but are eligible for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. F. Henderson and W. H. Gaskell, who are recommended for re-election.

ROBT. SHEWAN, Chairman.

Hongkong, 19th December, 1895.

BALANCE SHEET, 1st OCTOBER, 1894, TO 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1895.

| Dr. | \$ | c. |
|---|--------------|----|
| To authorized capital 60,000 at \$4 | \$240,000.00 | |
| To less 2nd call of 25 cents on 7 shares outstanding | \$ 1.75 | |
| To less 3rd call of 50 cents on 32 shares outstanding | 16.00 | |
| To less final call of 25 cents on 13,205 shares | 3,301.25 | |
| | 3,319.00 | |
| | \$236,681.00 | |
| To preference capital 30,000 shares at \$1 | 30,000.00 | |
| | 266,681.00 | |
| To accounts payable:— | | |
| Manager at Punjom | \$4,945.53 | |
| James Morrison & Co., Limited, London agents | 19.76 | |
| Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, Singapore | 7,343.13 | |
| E. D. Miles & Co., Charters Towers, Queensland | .47 | |
| Deposit account with employees at Punjom | 180.00 | |
| Syme & Co., Singapore agents | 239.66 | |
| Suspense account | 111.25 | |
| Directors' and auditors' fees | 2,650.06 | |
| Marine insurance on gold from Punjom to London | 991.34 | |
| | 18,531.14 | |
| To balance at credit of working account | 12,929.79 | |
| | \$296,141.93 | |

| Cr. | \$ | c. |
|---|--------------|----|
| By cost of estate | 155,821.76 | |
| By machinery and plant | 46,358.15 | |
| By main shaft | 10,000.00 | |
| By Cyanide plant | 20,708.75 | |
| By Klidah dam | 3,266.85 | |
| By buildings | 4,996.98 | |
| By roads and bridges | 2,795.74 | |
| By live stock | 1,740.29 | |
| By furniture at mine | 875.59 | |
| By stores at mine | 11,474.19 | |
| By opium at mine | 1,723.62 | |
| By provisions | 686.55 | |
| By cash in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, Hongkong | 6,913.02 | |
| By petty cash | 99.90 | |
| By cash at Pekan agency | 92.85 | |
| By head office furniture | 270.30 | |
| By accounts receivable:— | | |
| Advances to employees at Punjom | \$ 130.00 | |
| Balance due on July gold | 268.70 | |
| Part value of August gold | 12,680.09 | |
| Part value of Sept. gold | 15,163.96 | |
| | 28,242.75 | |
| By deposit with Telegraph Co. at Kuala Lepis | 74.64 | |
| | \$296,141.93 | |

WORKING ACCOUNT, TO 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1895.

| Dr. | \$ | c. |
|---|--------------|----|
| To cost of mining | \$77,969.04 | |
| To cost of milling | 35,552.53 | |
| | 113,521.57 | |
| To cost of Cyanide working | 3,077.77 | |
| To reconstruction of old battery and other repairs | 4,961.84 | |
| To sundry charges:— | | |
| Insurance | \$1,048.89 | |
| Exchange | 943.56 | |
| Travelling expenses | 628.23 | |
| Upkeep of police | 1,662.82 | |
| Charges on gold shipments to London | 1,211.61 | |
| Gold purchases | 656.96 | |
| Payment to the Toh Kaya at Lepis | 360.00 | |
| | 6,512.04 | |
| To head office expenses | 6,043.61 | |
| To legal expenses | 114.20 | |
| To Manager's salary and office expenses at Punjom | 11,497.80 | |
| To commission to agents at Singapore and Pekan and general expenses at Punjom | 12,350.53 | |
| To royalty to the Sultan of Pahang | 11,539.19 | |
| To directors' fees | 2,500.00 | |
| To auditors' fees | 150.00 | |
| To balance | 12,929.79 | |
| | \$185,698.34 | |

| Cr. | \$ | c. |
|---------------------------------|--------------|----|
| By balance from last account | 15,309.20 | |
| By gold account | 160,094.18 | |
| By interest | 189.20 | |
| By transfer fees | 81.40 | |
| By license fees | 113.50 | |
| By profit on sale of stores | \$1,739.58 | |
| By profit on sale of opium | 2,402.45 | |
| By profit on sale of provisions | 1,182.53 | |
| | 5,324.56 | |
| By profit on sale of shares | 4,536.30 | |
| | \$185,698.34 | |

NEW BALMORAL GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The first annual meeting of shareholders in this Company was held on the 28th December at noon, at the offices, Duddell Street. Mr. G. R. Stevens presided and there were also present Messrs. C. Ewins (member of Consulting Committee), W. H. Potts (Secretary), V. H. Deacon, J. H. Cox, A. G. Stokes, E. Robinson, S. Rustonjee, J. A. de Carvalho, and Hart Buck.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and accounts having been in your hands for some days, I will with your permission take them as read. We regret that in a monetary point they are not more satisfactory, the mines not having been as yet sufficiently opened up to make them self-supporting, although we are still advised by both Mr. Henderson and Mr. Grant that our prospects are as good as ever. Mr. Henderson expresses every confidence in

them and his reports on the mines agree in all respects with those obtained from other and undoubtedly reliable men; all agree (as you are aware) that the Company possesses a thoroughly good property which has in no way lost in value since Mr. Henderson was placed in charge to carry out his estimate of 1893, which estimate and report was considered by the Board to be a practicable one, made by a practical miner with a full knowledge of his subject and the necessary experience to fit him both to judge what work should be done and what such cost should be. After nearly two years' work under Mr. Henderson's management and an expenditure of more than double the money he estimated it would take to put the mines in working order, we find ourselves a good way from being in that position, and the Board under these circumstances can only draw the conclusion that either Mr. Henderson's estimate of 1893 was totally inadequate for the proposed work or that he had altered his plans without our sanction and has done more costly work than he at first thought necessary, the result of which is that the capital at our disposal was all spent before sufficient stone could be raised and crushed to pay our way. In October we contracted a loan of \$20,000 and this is also nearly expended with the same result. This loan becomes due on the 5th February, 1896, but part or the whole if required has been promised to be continued. Under these circumstances the Board deemed it advisable to dispose of the "Eureka" Mine to the "Oliver's Freehold Mining Co., Limited," when floated, for \$35,000 and have further sent plans, reports, and all particulars of the Balmoral mine and battery to England, with the object of placing the same on the London market. If both or even one of these properties are sold—the "Eureka" has now been sold—the Board have every confidence that they will have sufficient funds to place the remaining mines, the "Queen" and "Grant" (said to be our stayers), on a dividend paying basis. Expenses are at present heavier than they should be and with a view to more economical working we have suspended further operations at the mines, except work necessary to fulfil the labour conditions under the Mining Act of New South Wales and have under consideration certain changes in the management. Yesterday we received a telegram from the mines advising that another trial crushing would be made and the result was expected to be satisfactory. The Company are indebted to Mr. J. D. Humphreys for an interesting report on their property made during his late visit to Australia, and from which it appears Mr. Henderson's work has been carried out in a most substantial, but at the same time most expensive manner. We much regret the loss from our Board by death of Mr. Poon Pong, who since the starting of the Company had been one of its most active supporters. Now, gentlemen, before asking you to adopt the report and accounts, I shall be pleased to answer any question.

There were no questions, and the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and statement of accounts to 30th June.

Mr. Cox seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—The next business before you is to elect the Consulting Committee. I am sorry to say that at the present moment we are without a Board. Mr. Poon Pong's sudden death and the departure from the colony of Mr. Coughtrie the other day leaves us without a quorum. Mr. Ewens is at the present moment our only member. Mr. Gillies is still a member of the Board, but he is absent, and I should like you to propose someone to take the place of Mr. Poon Pong and Mr. Coughtrie.

Mr. DEACON—What is the number you require?

The CHAIRMAN—We require two as a working Board; not less than two according to the articles.

Mr. DEACON—Two will be sufficient?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, Mr. Ewens does not care to be re-elected; I think he will consent if he has someone to assist him.

Mr. EWENS—I think you had better abolish the Consulting Committee and leave the work to the General Managers. A Consulting Committee is only an unnecessary expense to a Company like this.

Mr. Cox—In order to serve on the Board must Mr. Ewens be re-elected?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes.

Mr. Cox—He can resign?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes.

No one was proposed and the CHAIRMAN said—There is no one proposed, and I am not in a position to mention any names to you at present for election on the Board, and so I propose under the articles of association to adjourn the meeting till this day week. The articles read that if at any meeting when a Consulting Committee is to be elected no such election takes place, the meeting shall stand adjourned for a week, and then if nobody is elected the existing members shall remain; but we have not a quorum of existing members. I may say I have asked Mr. Cooke, of the Dock Company, to take the place of Mr. Gillies *pro tem.*, and also Captain Burnie, who is a shareholder, but they are kept too busy and cannot undertake the duty. In the meantime the difficulty is to find out who really are our shareholders, and who are not—fully paid, I mean. We have a great many people on the register who are not shareholders at present. Before parting I would ask you to elect an auditor. Mr. J. H. Cox has audited our accounts and I beg to propose that he be re-elected.

Mr. CARVALHO seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, as there is no further business I must ask you to meet again on Saturday next, at noon, and I hope in the meantime we may be able to propose a Consulting Committee.

MESSRS. J. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders in this Company was held in the Board room at the Hongkong Dispensary on Saturday morning (28th December) for the purpose of confirming the resolution passed at an extraordinary general meeting held on the 11th inst. Mr. J. D. Humphreys presided, and there were also present Mr. W. H. Ray, Capt. Clements, Messrs. J. T. Hagen, J. A. Jupp, J. C. Peter, Hart Buck, Lan Shan, and A. H. Mancell (secretary).

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, the following special resolution was passed at an extraordinary general meeting held in this Board room on the 11th inst.:—"That the articles of association of the Company be altered by striking out article 104 and substituting in lieu thereof the new article 104, which will read as follows: 'If the said John David Humphreys vacates office by death, the firm of J. D. Humphreys and Son shall succeed him and be the General Managers of the Company.' I now beg to move that this resolution be confirmed.

Mr. W. H. RAY—I beg to second.

Carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—I am very much obliged to you for your attendance, gentlemen. I think that concludes the business of the meeting.

THE DAIRY FARM CO., LIMITED.

The ninth ordinary yearly meeting of shareholders in the Dairy Farm Co., Limited, was held at Telegraph House, Queen's Road, on the 27th December, at noon. Mr. Granville Sharp presided, and there were also present Messrs. S. G. Bird, E. Burnie, W. H. Potts (Secretary), S. A. Tillett, G. C. Cox, S. L. Darby, G. H. Potts, W. H. Ray, G. Murray Adamson.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, we have called you together this time rather earlier than usual. We thought there was a certain appropriateness, as we had a good report to lay before you, to invite you to meet about Christmas time—a time of general festivity. We have had a good year, and we have proved the truth of the adage that "all things are possible to wisely directed diligence;" and we hope you will be satisfied with what we have done. We have much to be thankful for; to God's providence for preserving the health and the lives of our cattle, as we have not suffered as some of the dairies in the north have during the past year. All the employees of the Company have done their best, and I think there has been a singularly devoted spirit

throughout our staff from

close of the year; and I attribute very portion of our success under God's providence to the fidelity with which we have been served. The directors have also laboured well. We are sorry that Mr. Machado has resigned; he has done good work for the Company during the last three years. Our business is in some degree divided on account of the distance between the farm and the town office. Mr. Machado has taken especial care of the town office, and he and Dr. Noble have devoted themselves very constantly to the perfecting of the arrangements there, whilst Captain Burnie has devoted much of his time to the farm. We have taken the opportunity this year of writing down our property. Several persons have remarked that we had too much property and not enough cows; we have more cows than we had before, and our property is put down at a lower figure than it ever was before, and therefore I hope the feelings of all will thereby be met. We are very glad indeed to be able to bring before you a good report, and when you have had the opportunity of asking any questions you may like to put upon the subject, I shall proceed to move the adoption of the report and accounts.

There were no questions, and the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and statement of accounts to the 30th November last.

Mr. RAY—I have very much pleasure in seconding the resolution which has just been proposed. I think the directors are to be sincerely congratulated upon the very excellent result this year. I myself know the trouble they have been to, from my own experience on the Board, and the result now obtained is a matter of congratulation to the shareholders as well as to the directors.

Carried.

Mr. Cox proposed the re-election of the retiring directors, Captain Burnie and Dr. Noble.

Mr. ADAMSON seconded.

Carried.

Captain TILLET proposed the confirmation of the appointment of Mr. S. G. Bird as director.

Mr. RAY seconded.

Carried.

Captain BURNIE proposed and Mr. ADAMSON seconded that Captain Tillett be requested to accept a seat on the directorate.

The CHAIRMAN—I have very much pleasure in saying that the directors recommend that appointment to the shareholders.

The resolution was carried.

Captain TILLET—Gentlemen, I beg to thank you for the honour you have done me. I shall endeavour to assist the Board to the best of my power and ability.

The CHAIRMAN—Thank you.

Mr. DARBY proposed the election of Mr. Henderson as auditor.

Mr. G. H. Potts seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—I hope Mr. Henderson will be able to accept the appointment, because I see by an advertisement that he is making a change in his arrangements, but I hope he will still be available for this service. I think, gentlemen, that is all we have to do. I am very much obliged to you for coming, because if you had not come we should not have been able to do anything; we have only just been able to do what we have. Dividend warrants will be sent out in due course.

On the motion of Mr. RAY a vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MAJOR BROTHERS, LIMITED.

The annual meeting of the above Company was held at Shanghai on the 22nd December, when the report and accounts were adopted. The following is the substance of the report:

The directors beg to submit to the shareholders the duly audited accounts for the sixth year's operations of the Company, ended 31st October, 1895.

They regret that the business as a whole has not left a profit on the twelve months' working, but consider that it is now on a much more satisfactory and sound basis. A comparison of this year's accounts with those of last shows that the loss for 1895 amounts to Tls. 4,567.91 against a deficit in 1894 of Tls. 21,548.78.

continued to be unprofitable, Abraham's agreement was not renewed; a considerable saving has thus been made.

The oil mill has not been run to its full capacity owing to the abnormally high rates ruling for seeds during a portion of the season, but a market has now been established for both cake and oil, so this branch of the Company's business gives promise of doing fairly well in the future.

The acid works have suffered through the continued decline in the supply of silver for the refiners, but there has been a considerable increase in local business, and this increase is confidently expected by your directors to expand still further.

The *Shun Pao* newspaper has continued to do well, and is year by year becoming a more valuable property.

THE CITY HALL.

The following is the report submitted to the annual meeting of shareholders in and subscribers to the City Hall:—

COMMITTEE.

The Hon. J. J. Keswick resigned his seat upon leaving the colony and Mr. J. J. Bell-Irving was asked to fill the vacancy. The Committee now consists of the Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving (Chairman), H. L. Dalrymple, H. N. Mody, B. Layton, and N. A. Siebs.

THE STATE OF THE BUILDING.

The building generally is in a fair state of repair. The sum of \$275.06 was expended in effecting the special repairs to the wood-work necessitated by white ants which, as in former years, were again found to have invaded the building. The plaster ceilings in the angle cupolas have now been replaced with open lattice-work which allows of the penetration of light and air, and it is hoped that the expenses under this head will continue light in future. It appears, however, to be an absolute impossibility to keep the building wholly free from this scourge.

The ball room suite has been considerably improved by the introduction of the electric light at an initial cost of \$1,800. The Committee regret that they have so far been unable to introduce the same illuminant into the theatre, as the motive power at the disposal of the Electric Company at present is insufficient to enable them to promise a sufficient supply of electricity while the consumption is of an intermittent nature. With the increased use of the electric light throughout the colony it is hoped that before long it will be possible to extend the use of it to the theatre as well as to the other portions of the building.

During the twelve months, from 1st July, 1894, to 30th June, 1895, the theatre and the St. Andrew's hall were utilized by the Hongkong Minstrel Troupe, the Allison Vaudeville Co., Miss Elsie Adair, Mr. Ruchwaldy, Mr. Cattaneo, the Philharmonic Society, Smoking Concert Club, the Rifle Brigade, Hicks' Orioles, Williamson's Chicago Co., the Amateur Dramatic Club, the Centurion Amateurs, Mr. Saville Smith, the Sailors' Institute, Miss Sallie Booth, Mr. D. C. Smith, Mr. Carey, and the New Willard Opera Company. The usual bazaars for charitable purposes were held in the St. Andrew's hall free of charge, and the rooms have been placed at the disposal of those interested in prize distributions, educational examinations, and benevolent objects without rent being asked for.

The gross receipts from the theatre and St. Andrew's hall between 1st July, 1894, and 30th June, 1895, amounted to \$4,520.72 as against \$3,170.23 during the previous year. The amount obtained from the letting of the ball room suite during the same twelve months was \$1,001.03 as against \$1,133.21 in 1893-1894.

THE LIBRARY.

Mr. Niedhart presented a valuable work in sixteen volumes entitled "Pharmaceutische Centralhalle" from 1880 to 1891, and forty-three works printed in Hongkong have been placed upon the shelves. During the year a suggestion was made to the Committee that it would be well to amalgamate the City Hall library with the new public library about to be started, but

as the Committee have neither the staff nor space available for a lending library they did not consider themselves at liberty to accept the suggestion. By affording space for the Morrison and Victoria libraries during the last twenty-six years the Committee are convinced that two valuable collections of books have been preserved for the use of the colony, and should the new library at any time be in a position to relieve them of their trust and take over these two libraries and provide them with suitable accommodation they will gladly hand them over. The City Hall library was frequently by 3260 readers during the twelve months under review, and the publishers of the Hongkong journals have to be again thanked for supplying their newspapers free of charge.

THE MUSEUM.

Between the 1st July, 1894, and 30th June, 1895, the visitors were somewhat less in number than during the preceding year; this, however, was largely owing to the plague which was at its worst during the first few months of this period. The total number of visitors was 90,638, of whom 83,830 were Chinese. Additions to the collection were made by the Honourable E. R. Belilios and Messrs. Anderson, Chan Kiu Tong, Chun Tong, D'Aguila, Edwards, Kew, Korn, Perkins, Place, Remedios, Sung Su Ying, and Wilkinson.

ACCOUNTS.

The balance in the hands of the Honorary Treasurer on the 30th June, 1895, was \$2,795.89, as appears from the annexed figures. The cost of the installation of the electric light in the ball room suite not being paid for before the 30th June does not appear in the account, but will go to swell the disbursements during the current year.

In addition to the balance above referred to, there is a sum of \$11,025.00 to the credit of the City Hall on fixed deposit in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

| | |
|---|--------------|
| To balance in hands of the Hon. Treasurer on 30th June, 1894, as shown in last report | \$2,155.32 |
| To receipts from Theatre, St. Andrew's Hall, Ball Room, &c., &c. | 6,388.75 |
| To rent of Chamber of Commerce | 600.00 |
| To subscriptions collected between 1st July, 1894, and 30th June, 1895 | 610.00 |
| To Government Grant for 1895 | 1,300.00 |
| To interest on current account in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank to 30th June, 1895 | 28.61 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$ 10,992.68 |
| By wages for 12 months | \$3,448.00 |
| By repairs and alterations | 1,882.88 |
| By gas | 1,390.98 |
| By museum and office expenses | 96.18 |
| By Insurance premia | 701.00 |
| By Government Fire Brigade | 127.75 |
| By interest from Dec., 1893, to June, 1894, on deposit added to fixed deposit in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank | 450.00 |
| By balance | 2,795.89 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$10,992.68 |

J. J. BELL-IRVING,
Chairman.

CRICKET.

THE CRICKET CLUB v. THE UNITED SERVICES.

The match with the United Services is always looked forward to as the perhaps most interesting fixture of the Cricket Club, from the fact that it is the only occasion upon which the Club has to rely exclusively upon the civilian element; and as a consequence it is the nearest approach to a really exciting encounter which Hongkong—in the absence of an inter-port match—can get up. A reference to old records will show that in the past the honours of the game have been divided pretty evenly, and although in the present instance the Club won rather handsomely by ten wickets, it would require a pretty bold punter—

after looking through the teams—to lay very long odds on either side, if the game had to be played over again. It is not very often that the fielding upon the Hongkong cricket ground affords opportunity for much slapping of the chest, but the game under discussion may be remembered—in spite of one or two mistakes—as remarkable for the number of really gallery catches that were brought off, as well as for the general smartness of the fielding all round. The catch with which Holland dismissed Anton in the first innings was really brilliant, whilst Eccles, Alexander, Dyson, E. W. Maitland, and Private Green brought off catches which were quite out of the ordinary run.

Sercombe Smith was fortunate in getting the best of the spin for the choice of innings, and naturally elected to bat, sending in Ellis and Hancock to the bowling of Powlett and Green. The latter should have been caught in the slips off an early delivery of the fast bowler, but having had this escape both batsmen settled down to steady cricket and in spite of one or two changes in the bowling the score had been raised to 67 before Hancock was caught at the wicket off Alexander for a very well played 40, which included a five and five four's. The new comer was Firth, and he and Ellis stayed together till the telegraph board showed 111, at which total Green dismissed the latter for 45; a steadily played innings and compiled, as far as we saw, without a chance. The four or five succeeding batsmen did little to distinguish themselves individually, but they stayed whilst Firth, who was batting in quite his old form, put on runs at his end. With the total at 198 Firth was very smartly taken in the slips by Alexander off Vallings for 66, the highest score, and probably the best innings of the two days' cricket. The only batsman who made any serious resistance to the bowling from this point was Sercombe Smith, who eventually carried out his bat for a well played 24. Vallings and Green divided the bowling honours, but the latter had the better of the analysis, with the very creditable figures of 4 wickets for 42 runs.

The Services opened their innings with Campbell and Holland to the bowling of E. W. Maitland and Sercombe Smith. Only 4 runs had been scored when the latter found his way to Holland's wicket, and a few minutes later Campbell, who had made three 4's to leg, cut one of E. W. Maitland's balls into point's hands. This was a bad start, but further reverses were in store for the batting side, for at 41 Dyson was clean bowled by Sercombe Smith; at 52 Vallings was caught at mid off by Ellis off the same bowler; and at 53 Grafton was run out in attempting a very ill-judged run. Eccles, who was the new comer, put more life into the game, hitting Maitland out of the ground for 6, and threatening to put quite a different complexion upon the game, until a change of bowling brought about his dismissal, for when he had put together 39 runs he skied one of Hancock's into F. Maitland's hands, and shortly afterwards the innings closed for 111 runs, Green being indisposed and unable to bat. Sercombe Smith bowled extremely well for the Club, capturing 6 wickets for 47 runs, a very fine performance. Being 123 runs to the bad the Services had to follow on their innings, but did not succeed, to any great extent, in improving upon their first venture. Campbell in the early part of the innings and Alexander later played good cricket, but these were the only batsmen to offer any serious resistance to the bowling, and when the former was caught at point for 43 the innings was practically over, Alexander carrying out his bat for a carefully played 31. This time Hancock was the most successful bowler, with 6 wickets—and the best wickets, too—for 58 runs. The Club were left with 28 runs to win and these were knocked off by Anton and F. Maitland without the loss of a wicket. Being anxious not to lose an hour's cricket the Club continued their innings after the match was over and eventually were all out for 77. Green again bowled very successfully, taking 4 wickets for 35 runs, whilst Vallings was almost as successful, with 4 for 40.

By the courtesy of Col. St Paul and the officers the band of the Rifle Brigade played a very attractive selection of music upon the ground during the afternoon of the second day.

SCORE AND ANALYSIS.

| H.K.C.C. | | | |
|--|-----|-----------------------|----|
| E. C. Ellis, b. Green | 43 | c. Dyson, b. Vallings | 2 |
| R. H. Hancock, c. Paley, b. Alexander | 40 | c. Dyson, b. Vallings | 9 |
| C. M. Firth, c. Alexander, b. Vallings | 6 | c. Dyson, b. Vallings | 23 |
| F. Maitland, c. Eccles, b. Green | 5 | c. Dyson, b. Vallings | 5 |
| E. W. Maitland, c. Dyson, b. Vallings | 11 | c. Dyson, b. Vallings | 0 |
| A. S. Anderson, c. Hancock, b. Green | 5 | c. Dyson, b. Vallings | 0 |
| E. A. Lam, b. Green | 6 | c. Dyson, b. Vallings | 0 |
| J. R. Gillingham, c. Oldham, b. Vallings | 14 | c. Dyson, b. Vallings | 0 |
| T. Sercombe Smith, not out | 14 | c. Dyson, b. Vallings | 0 |
| H. Arthur, b. Alexander | 4 | c. Dyson, b. Vallings | 0 |
| B. P. Shidmore, c. Campbell, b. Vallings | 3 | c. Dyson, b. Vallings | 2 |
| Extras | 9 | Extras | 2 |
| Total | 134 | Total | 77 |

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

First Innings.

| Overs | Maid | Runs | Wides | N.B. | Wicket |
|-----------|-------|------|-------|------|--------|
| Powlett | 8 | 2 | 17 | — | — |
| Green | 32 | 14 | 42 | — | 4 |
| Alexander | 18 | 4 | 53 | — | 2 |
| Dyson | 3 | — | 22 | — | — |
| Oldham | 3 | 1 | 7 | 1 | — |
| Campbell | 8 | 3 | 19 | — | — |
| Vallings | 21.25 | 4 | 65 | — | 4 |

Second Innings.

| | | | | | |
|----------|----|---|----|---|---|
| Green | 17 | 8 | 35 | — | 4 |
| Vallings | 17 | 9 | 40 | — | — |

UNITED SERVICES.

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----------------------------------|----|
| G. D. Campbell, H.K.R., c. F. Maitland, b. E. W. Maitland | 12 | c. F. Maitland, b. E. W. Maitland | 43 |
| S. E. Holland, R.B., b. S. Smith | 0 | b. Hancock, c. S. Smith | 5 |
| Rev. G. Vallings, c. Ellis, b. S. Smith | 8 | b. Hancock, c. S. Smith | 4 |
| Capt. Dyson, A.P.D., b. S. Smith | 6 | c. S. Smith, b. Hancock | 2 |
| Capt. Grafton, R.N., not out | 7 | c. E. W. Maitland, b. Hancock | 14 |
| Lieut. A. H. Oldham, R.N., b. S. Smith | 1 | b. Hancock, c. S. Smith | 2 |
| Capt. Eccles, R.B., c. F. Maitland, b. Hancock | 30 | c. Gillingham, b. Hancock | 7 |
| Lieut. P. A. Paulitt, R.N., c. and b. Sercombe Smith | 7 | c. and b. E. W. Maitland | 6 |
| R. Alexander, R.B., not out | 6 | not out | 31 |
| G. Paley, R.B., b. Sercombe Smith | 0 | b. S. Smith | 6 |
| Privat. Green, absent | — | b. S. Smith | 5 |
| Extras | 3 | Extras | 2 |
| Total | 116 | Total | 15 |

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

First Innings.

| Overs | Maid | Runs | Wides | N.B. | Wicket |
|----------------|-------|------|-------|------|--------|
| E. W. Maitland | 15 | 4 | 57 | — | 1 |
| S. Smith | 16.25 | 4 | 47 | — | 6 |
| Hancock | 2 | — | 4 | — | 1 |

Second Innings.

| | | | | | |
|----------------|-------|----|----|---|---|
| Firth | 10 | 2 | 16 | — | — |
| Hancock | 34 | 11 | 58 | — | 6 |
| S. Smith | 15.15 | 4 | 33 | — | 2 |
| E. W. Maitland | 9 | 2 | 21 | — | 2 |

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

FOURTH CLUB RACE.

The course for the fourth race of the season, sailed on the 22nd December, was from the Police Pier, Kowloon, between the Central Fairway buoys, round Green Island, Cosmopolitan Dock buoy, and Channel Rocks (leaving all to starboard), finishing off the Police Pier; 14 miles.

The following boats started in a light east wind:—

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| Dart | Dr. Lowson |
| Erica | Mr. Denison |
| Ladybird | Mr. J. Hastings |
| Meteor | Mr. Lamert |
| Payne | Royal Engineers |
| Petrel | Mr. Morton Jones |
| Princess | Mr. J. McKie |
| She | Mr. Gale |
| May Queen | Rifle Brigade |

It was a run down to the Green Island mark, which was rounded about noon by Dart, about a minute in front of Princess and Erica, which rounded together, followed closely by Ladybird, She, Petrel, Meteor, and Payne, with May Queen some distance astern. Most of the boats made the Cosmopolitan Dock buoy in one tack, but Payne, Petrel, and May Queen went about and stood over to the Hongkong shore and then had a free reach across the harbour. This put them some 10 minutes behind, and as events proved lost them all chance of scoring. When off the east end of Stonecutters Island, Dart, which was then third boat, sprung her mast and had to retire. In the beat across Erica had gained two or three minutes and Meteor a minute or so on the other boats and the buoy was rounded as follows:—

| | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|
| Erica | 12 | 31 | 29 |
| Meteor | 12 | 33 | 47 |
| Princess | 12 | 34 | 14 |
| Ladybird | 12 | 37 | 26 |
| She | 12 | 38 | 00 |
| Payne | 12 | 42 | 05 |
| Petrel | 12 | 45 | 07 |
| May Queen | 12 | 51 | 32 |

Another long tack brought the fleet to the Kowloon pier, where Erica was caught by Meteor and after taking the lead in turns Meteor went into first place. At this point Princess was third boat and She, which had been going remarkably well in the light wind, was in front of Ladybird, with Payne and Petrel some distance behind. The wind increased considerably on the beat up to Channel Rocks, and Meteor gave quite an exhibition in the way she went through the water, beating the Erica by quite two minutes. The Rocks were passed by the

| | | | |
|----------|---|----|----|
| Meteor | 1 | 39 | 54 |
| Erica | 1 | 42 | 00 |
| Princess | 1 | 45 | 45 |
| She | 1 | 51 | 25 |
| Ladybird | 1 | 58 | 00 |
| Payne | 1 | 58 | 25 |

Petrel gave up at the Police pier. The She gained some five minutes on the Ladybird in the beat up to the Rocks.

An uneventful run brought the boats to the finish at:—

| | | | |
|----------|---|----|----|
| Meteor | 2 | 3 | 15 |
| Erica | 2 | 06 | 21 |
| Princess | 2 | 10 | 58 |
| She | 2 | 18 | 05 |
| Ladybird | 2 | 23 | 14 |
| Payne | 2 | 23 | 54 |

The marks gained by the boats are:—

| FIRST CLASS. | SECOND CLASS. |
|--------------|---------------|
| Erica | 22 |
| Princess | 16 |
| Dart | 10 |
| Meteor | 10 |
| Payne | 1 |
| Ladybird | 1 |
| She | 40 |

RUGBY FOOTBALL.

HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB v. THE NAVY.

As was expected this match turned out to be one in which it was doubtful right to the end as to which would be declared the victor. It was decided to play twenty-five minutes each way and the Club having won the toss commenced with the wind in their favour. The Club at first seemed heavy in the scrum and managed to get into their opponents' ground. Blunt relieved by a good run, but was forced into touch. From a scrum Greenfield obtained the ball and restored his side to its lost position between the centre and the twenty-five. Here a scrum was formed and the ball having been passed out to Townsend was carried right up despite severe opposition. When it was seen that only Powlett was left to bar his progress, a breathless silence reigned, but when it was seen that this last obstacle was past lusty cheers were given as running in by the flag he veered round and touched down near the centre. The try was converted by Greenfield. The Club seemed now to have the better share in the game and after another few minutes play Townsend again put in a splendid run, but was ultimately forced into touch. Feeling amongst the naval supporters then became very intense as it was seen that Arbuthnot had managed to elude several opponents and was proceeding at full speed to the uprights. But Davies had, however, to be reckoned with and a fine tackle prevented further progress. Half time was now called and after a rest of five minutes the contest was once more renewed, and, more especially by the Navy, with renewed vigour. Down to the present the play amongst the Naval three-quarters had been but of a moderate description, but in this half a noticeable improvement commenced, the ball being passed much more correctly and quickly. For a few minutes the Navy beheld the Club slowly making its way into their twenty-five, Barlow having much advanced the ball by a good dribble. Then a change com-

menced and gradually the Navy came ahead, the other direction. The Navy was more powerful in the scrum and began to give the Club adherents considerable anxiety. Sheldford was continually on the ball and excellent passing began right through the three-quarter pack. By a good dribble Skelton left the ball in the Club's twenty-five. Here Powlett made several good attempts to get in and at one time he was within ten yards of the goal-line and there he was brought to rest. However, a scrum was formed a little later in the twenty-five, Sheldford rapidly passed after a short run to Arbuthnot, who on being tackled passed out to Blunt, who ran in and scored for the Navy. The try was not converted. The Club now had plenty to do, for with the Navy playing a determined and pressing game all efforts had to be put forth in order to restrain their progress. Sheldford when throwing in from touch required to be carefully watched, as the ball usually fell to the right man. Kew stopped the progress of the Navy towards the end by kicking well down the field, a result hailed with joy by the Club, who began to feel that in order to save the game they must obstruct their opponents to the fullest extent. Wood, a few minutes later, repeated a similar action and finally when the whistle blew the contending teams were in the centre of the field. Thus the Club won this, the first match against the Navy, by five points to three.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE PASS AND LIGHT ORDINANCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE DAILY PRESS.

SIR,—The impartial attitude assumed by you with reference to this question in your leading article of the 23rd instant must be my excuse for asking you to insert a few words in the *Daily Press* explanatory of the remarks made by me at the meeting of Chinese held at the Tung Wah Hospital on Sunday, the 22nd instant, and to the tone of which exception was taken by you.

I would, with your permission, preface my remarks by saying that it is extremely difficult to judge from an English *résumé* of speeches delivered in Chinese as to the tone of those speeches, but I can conscientiously aver that neither I nor my friends had the faintest intention or wish to act the part of agitators, using the word in its offensive sense, i.e., as persons desiring to incite others to break the law or to make out that a grievance existed where there was no *bona fide* feeling that a hardship was being inflicted by the Ordinance complained of.

The whole object of the meeting referred to was to demonstrate clearly to the Government what were the real feelings of the Hongkong Chinese on the subject. As I am reported to have said by one of your evening contemporaries, my object in addressing the meeting was to point out to those present "that if a thing is unreasonable we can always appeal to the Government to have it modified or repealed, otherwise the Government is not in a position to know our hardships," and, to quote from the same report further on, "We should always bring our grievances to the notice of the Government in order to have them remedied, and I have no doubt they will receive due consideration from the Government."

The objection of the Chinese to the Ordinance is not an imaginary or fanciful one, for the great majority consider it wholly ineffective in affording protection to the respectable members of the community, while on the other hand it puts all respectable people going out at night to considerable inconvenience, and at the same time greatly interferes with eating-house keepers and others, whose profits very greatly depend on the patronage of customers after seven p.m., and I feel sure that if the Ordinance is to be rigidly enforced in the future the result will be a diminution in the value of property in the western part of the town. It may be that the references to the legislation being wholly aimed at Chinese would convey an im-

pression to those not at the meeting that "I was attempting to direct the policy of the Government," but except with reference to Ordinances intended "to promote the prosperity, happiness, and well-being of the Chinese community," to use your own words, there was no intention whatever on my part of so doing.

I greatly regret that my speech should have been misrepresented in some quarters in the way it has been, and assure you that I have far too great a material interest in this colony, which is my home, to make me ever desire to stir up strife between the Government and my fellow colonists.

The fact that the petition forwarded to the Government by me on the 10th inst. bore the chops of over eight hundred Chinese firms, including amongst them the recognised leaders in the native mercantile community, and that the meeting at the Tung Wah was attended by over four hundred persons, should, I submit, fully satisfy your readers that the Ordinance is strongly objected to, and that the agitation against it is a *bona fide* one and will be carried out in a constitutional manner.—Yours faithfully,

HO TUNG.

Hongkong, 27th December, 1895.

DEDICATION OF THE GERMAN CONCESSION AT TIENTSIN.

The Tientsin correspondent of the *Mercury* writing on the 16th December, says:—

The dedication of the German settlement took place yesterday at 1.30 p.m., at the south boundary of their Concession. There was a pavilion erected, flying the German Imperial, Consular, and the commercial flags. The Chinese flag flew next to them. At 1 p.m. the German marine officers arrived, and there followed Baron von Seckendorff, the Consul, Dr. Kraus, Vice-Consul, the Tientsin Prefect, Magistrate, and Deputy Magistrate, also Mr. Wu Tingfang, who had arrived for the occasion from Peking, whence he will return in a day or so, to assist H.E. Li Hung-chang to frame the commercial treaty with Japan. Mr. G. Detring, Miss Detring, Lady von Seckendorff, Mr. and Mrs. Mandl, Mr. and Mrs. G. Ritter, and all the members of our German community also put in an appearance at 1.15 p.m., apparelled in their Sunday best. The Acting Customs Taotai Weng arrived, followed by the Tientsin Taotai. On their arrival the marines presented arms and Baron von Seckendorff read his speech, which was to the effect that ever since seventeen years ago Germany had wanted a settlement of her own, and had at last arranged one to be on the terms presented on the 18th October last, which was a proof of the goodwill existing between their Majesties of China and Germany. The only foreigner present who was not a German was your correspondent.

RAILWAYS AT LAST.

The Peking correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes:—

An Imperial Edict was issued to-day, the 6th of December, ordering the construction of the line, a double one, from Tientsin to Lukouchiao, the so-called Marco Polo's Bridge, 10 miles to the south-west of Peking. It is to be built by Mr. Kinder, in other words by the Chinese themselves, and to be completed, at soonest in one year and at latest in eighteen months. It is to cost, including ground and locomotives, three millions of taels and extends in length 216 li or 72 miles, making it cost about £7,000 per mile. The line itself is to cost Tls. 2,400,000. The rails are to be 85-lbs. so as to give great strength and permit of great speed. Taotai Hu is made director. The Emperor does not wish it to come to Peking in the meantime. It will undoubtedly pay well and it expects to carry the Russian tea from Tientsin, camels' hair and wool to Tientsin, and coal from the Western Hills to Tientsin. It will prove a great convenience to the graduates coming up for their examinations and the officials coming up for audience. The line is to be constructed on the west side of the Peiho. The funds for its construction are to

be derived as follows:—one million from the Board of Revenue, one million from the yamen of the Northern Superintendency, and one million which Chang Chih-tung borrowed and which the Tsungli Yamen has taken over. The Hankow-Lukouchiao line being much longer and more expensive is left to be built by the rich merchants. But the wealthy Chinese will subscribe to no scheme which is not under foreign superintendence. They have no faith in their own Government. The amount could be easily raised in Peking alone. There is an immense amount of wealth among the Chinese waiting to be utilised. At present the only outlets for money are in pawnshops, grainshops, and house property, and then it rarely realises over two per cent. and is attended with great risk. Some shake their heads over the success of the proposed railway because of its official character. If it should turn out a failure, which some predict, it will postpone the advent of the iron road for another generation. The fault will have been not with the railway but its management. The Chinese would prefer to see all such schemes in the hands of the merchants.

THE PEI-HO'S WINTER FREAK.

Tientsin, 14th December

Winter has come upon us this season in an unprecedentedly abrupt manner. After lulling us into a false security by singularly mild weather, he has sprung upon us with the sudden savagery of a polar bear, and disconcerted business arrangements most terribly.

Up to the evening of the 7th inst. the weather kept exceptionally mild, not a trace of ice was to be seen anywhere in any of the bends of the river, and not even the most experienced hand would have prophesied risk. Steamer agents and captains were quite easy in their minds about getting steamers away with their cargoes and passengers. However, early on Sunday morning, the 8th, a north-west wind began to blow, and increasing in force all day interfered with the progress of the steamer *Wo-sang*, which had left the Bund in the morning for Shanghai. By the afternoon the water in the shallow parts of the river had been blown away, and the *Wo-sang* was unable to proceed. The wind still kept strong on Monday, but the *Tung-chow* left the Bund, hardly hoping to get down the river, but anxious to get down as far as possible. Meantime the tides on the bar had dropped to 7 ft. 6 in. at high water, and having only 2 ft. 6 in. at low water. On Tuesday morning the *Lien-shing* left the Bund, but on Tuesday afternoon the three steamers had not got further than the South Reach. The *Wo-sang* was ashore just above the Arsenal Creek, and it was impossible for the other steamers to pass her, even had there been enough water to float them. On Tuesday night the steamers managed to get down a little further, the *Wo-sang* as far as the Brick Kiln Reach, where she was stopped by ice and want of water. The *Tung-chow* succeeded in rounding the Arsenal Bend, but did not dare to go up to the *Wo-sang*. The *Lien-shing* was obliged to tie up in the South Reach and wait till the two steamers ahead got off. Meantime the Taku Tug and Lighter Company's tug *Kai-tai* (a very powerful boat), had started up from Taku on the evening of the 8th with two large loaded lighters, but was unable to get through the long North-west Reach for water. By Tuesday afternoon, however, she succeeded in reaching the Upper Tombs' Bend where she encountered ice three inches thick, and found it impossible to proceed. The captain of the *Kai-tai* anchored the lighters, and started to cut away the ice. By indefatigable operations he succeeded in reaching the *Wo-sang* about 11 a.m. on Wednesday, having cut through some five or six miles of solid ice. The *Wo-sang* was enabled to proceed, and the *Tung-chow* and *Lien-shing* quickly followed, and the spirits of steamer captains and passengers rose and all were confident that all was now right. (We should have mentioned that two tugs, the *Pei-ho* and *Lee-tah*, had gone down from Tientsin to render what assistance they could). Alas, when the *Wo-sang* reached the spot where the *Kai-tai* had left her lighters, she encountered ice which she found impossible to cut through. Two tugs now took the two

lighters in tow, while one broke the ice ahead, and on Wednesday afternoon they arrived at the Bund. On Thursday morning another N.W. gale sprang up, and during the night the ice had increased very much in thickness. Until going to press the wind was still from the north-west, and all hope must now be abandoned of getting the three steamers away this winter. Several riding parties have visited the steamers, and all confirm this view. The passengers have nearly all left the steamers, and are now all anxious to get on board any steamer outside the Bar.

Meantime the officials of the Taku Tug and Lighter Company have been undergoing great anxiety about the safety of the men and lighters, &c. outside the Bar. Some 800 men were outside on ten lighters and one towboat, the *Chin Lung*, and there was only a limited supply of food and water. They have, however, succeeded in bringing in 400 of the men and two lighters, and have taken out food and water to the others and coal to the tug. While coming in the *Heron* observed a small cargo boat embedded in ice at the Black Buoy. The *Heron* was at once steered for the boat, and after cutting through five inches of ice was able to rescue the crew of five men and two passengers. The boat, which was on a voyage from Nan Chan Ho to Peh-tang with wheat, was taken in tow, but was immediately cut down by the ice and had to be abandoned in a sinking condition. On Thursday evening the Taku Tug and Lighter Company endeavoured to send a tug to the Tong-ku station, but the attempt had to be given up. The Courier was unable to get across the river on Thursday, and letters and passengers for the *Kwei-lin* only arrived at Taku yesterday forenoon, too late to go out by the *Heron*, which had started for the Bar at 10 a.m. This unfortunate state of things will involve great loss to all concerned, and especially to the steamer companies.—*Peking and Tientsin Times*.

HONGKONG.

The weather during Christmas time was really magnificent, and much enjoyment was indulged in during the holidays. On Friday the annual meeting of the Dairy Farm Company, Limited, was held, and in the evening the Amateur Dramatic Society produced "Dandy Dick" for the first time, the performance being a very successful one. There was also held on Friday evening the annual tea and meeting of the Missions to Seamen at the Sailors' Home. On Saturday the shareholders in the following Companies held meetings—Punjom Mining Company, Limited, New Balmoral Mining Company, Limited, and A. S. Watson and Company, Limited.

The German men-of-war *Kaiser* and *Arcona* left for Amoy on Monday.

The Austrian Lloyd's steamer *Vindobona* left Kobe for this port yesterday at 4 p.m.

The steamer *Continental* has been purchased by the Osaka Shosen Kaisha and is now named the *Maizuru Maru*.

The dance given by the Medical Staff Corps at Murray Barracks on Christmas Day was most enjoyable. The ball room was tastefully decorated and there was a large attendance.

The Chief Justice, Sir Fielding Clarke, leaves Hongkong by the English mail steamer on the 16th January. He will go to Bombay first and then to England before taking up his appointment in Jamaica.

The installation meeting of Zetland Lodge was held on the evening of the 24th Dec. when Bro. D. MacDonald was installed as Worshipful Master of the Lodge for the ensuing year. The ceremony was impressively performed by the Right Wor. District Grand Master, Hon. C. P. Chater, assisted by the Grand Lodge officers. Wor. Bro. MacDonald appointed and invested his officers as follows:—S.W., Bro. R. Mitchell; J.W., Bro. J. Lochhead; Treasurer, Bro. G. J. B. Sayer; Secretary, Bro. J. Dyer Ball; S.D., Bro. G. A. Buckland; J.D., Bro. J. Kirkwood; I.G., Bro. J. Gilchrist; D.C., Bro. G. C. Hayward; Steward, Bro. W. J. Tutchter; Tyler, Bro. J. Maxwell. After the closing of the Lodge the brethren sat down to a banquet, at which the usual loyal and masonic toasts were duly honoured.

Inspector McEwen charged his boy at the Magistracy on the 26th Dec. with leaving his service without giving proper notice. The boy said he left because his mother told him to go and get married. He was fined.

The body of the Rifleman who was drowned in the harbour some time ago was found on Christmas day by the police off Tsatsimui, and it was taken to the cemetery and buried under the supervision of Lieutenant Alexander.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donation to the funds of the Hospitals:—

Pawnbrokers' Guild \$100

At the Police Court on the 26th Dec. Frank Mitchell and Joseph Kirby, of the Rifle Brigade, were summoned for disorderly conduct in the street and also for assaulting a district watchman. A fine of \$10 and costs was imposed in each case.

Six griffins arrived on the 24th Dec. from Shanghai and they were drawn for at noon at Mr. Kennedy's stables with the following result:—Chestnut, Mr. Mody; grey, Mr. McKie; grey, Lord Conyngham; dun, Mr. Mody; dun, Mr. Harton; grey, Mr. Lewis.

About a quarter-past four on Monday morning a fire occurred at No. 40, Queen's Road West, occupied as a family house, and extended to No. 38. Both houses were completely gutted and Nos. 34 and 36 were also damaged by fire and water. The fire was caused by a falling lamp. No. 40 was insured for \$3,000 with Messrs. Siemens and Co.

About half-past six on the evening of the 24th December a fire broke out in the ground floor of 7, Shik Chan Lane, West Point, and the flames spread to the ground floor of No. 8 before they were checked by the firemen, who were quickly on the scene. The shops are eating houses, and the damage done was not very great, as the ground floors contained only Chinese sweetmeats and a quantity of wood. The premises are insured with Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. for \$5,000. The fire is supposed to have been caused by a lighted candle falling upon some wood.

The residents of Mosque Junction, where two cases of plague have recently occurred, are, we learn, inclined to attribute the appearance of the disease in that neighbourhood to the fact that in some building operations now going on close by bricks from the demolished houses in Taiping-shan are being used. The explanation does not appear to be a sufficient one, because sporadic cases of the disease have from time to time appeared in other parts of the town which could not be accounted for in the same way. The coincidence of the occurrence of cases of plague in the neighbourhood of building operations in which bricks from the condemned area are being used has, however, attracted attention and excited comment.

The Honorary Treasurer of the Edgar Relief Fund begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations:—

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| The Field Battery (H.K.V.) | \$40 |
| Mr. P. Sachse | 25 |
| Mr. R. H. Richardson | 10 |
| E. F. B. | 5 |
| Mr. Wm. Macbean | 5 |
| Mr. Dorabjee Nowrojee | 5 |
| Mr. A. G. Wise | 5 |
| Anonymous | 3 |

\$ 98

Brought forward 573

Total up to date 8671

A carol service was held in St. John's Cathedral on the afternoon of the 21st Dec. The following was the order of service:—

Voluntary, "The Pastoral Symphony" (Handel).

Shortened Form of Evensong.

Psalm 111 (Turtle), Nunc Dimittis (Monk)

CAROLS.

1. The First Noël.
 2. When I view the Mother holding. (Solo.)
 3. On this Day was born Christ Jesus.
 - Solo..... "Comfort ye, my people" (Handel).
 4. Shepherd! shake off your drowsy sleep.
 5. The Manger Throne.
 6. On Christmas Morn.
 - Voluntary..... "Hallelujah!" (Handel).
- The soloists were Mrs. G. C. Cox and Mr. C. W. Spriggs. There was a good congregation.

On the 24th Dec. upwards of 150 troops left Hongkong in the steamer *Teucer* for England. They were time expired men and invalids, and were drawn from the Rifle Brigade, Royal Engineers, and Royal Artillery. Captain McCarthy, R.E., was in charge as senior officer, and amongst the other officers proceeding home were Lieut. Duff, R.A., Lieut. Mathieson, R.E., and Lieut. Sanderson, R.B.

The annual meeting of the District Grand Lodge of Hongkong and South China was held on Monday, when the Right Wor. District Grand Master, Hon. C. P. Chater, appointed his officers for the ensuing year as follows:—D.G.S.W., Wor. Bro. R. Cooke; D.G.J.W., Wor. Bro. A. D. Death; D.G. Chaplain, Bro. the Rev. S. St. A. Baylee; D.G. Treasurer, Wor. Bro. P. R. Simmonds; D.G. Registrar, Wor. Bro. E. C. Ellis; D.G. President of the Board of General Purposes, Wor. Bro. G. L. Tomlin; D.G. Secretary, Wor. Bro. A. O'D. Gourdin; D.G. S.D., Wor. Bro. C. S. Powell; D.G.J.D., Wor. Bro. W. L. Ford; D. G. Superintendent of Works, Wor. Bro. D. Macdonald; D.G. Director of Ceremonies, Wor. Bro. S. Hanisch; D.G. Assistant do., Wor. Bro. H. W. Robertson; D.G. Sword Bearer, Wor. Bro. the Hon. W. C. H. Hastings; D.G. Standard Bearers, Wor. Bro. F. Cass and Wor. Bro. C. S. Rogers; D.G. Organist, Bro. C. W. Longuet; D. G. Pursuivant, Wor. Bro. E. T. Bond; D.G. Assistant Pursuivant, Wor. Bro. T. G. Gowland; Grand Stewards, Bros. R. Mitchell, E. W. Edwards, A. Jensen, P. C. Petersen, H. E. A. Hoile, and W. Helms; Tyler, Bro. J. R. Grimble. Wor. Bro. Spafford and Wor. Bro. Darby were elected unofficial members of the Board of General Purposes.

H.M.S. *Grafton*, first class cruiser, Captain William Des V. Hamilton, with relief crews for the China station, arrived here on the morning of the 24th Dec. She left England on the 12th November and on arrival at Gibraltar was obliged to go alongside the mole for repairs, her starboard engine having broken down on the voyage and her piston rod being also bent. The *Grafton* is the fourth of her class to visit the East, her predecessors being the *Crescent*, the *Gibraltar*, and the *Edgar*, the last named being now on the station. When the *Grafton* was proceeding to her buoy on Sunday she very narrowly escaped collision with the Russian cruiser *Nicolai I*. The *Grafton*'s engines had been stopped and she was being steered round the bows of the Russian boat when it was noticed from the other men-of-war that the *Grafton* was perilously near the Russian cruiser; indeed a collision seemed inevitable and every one who witnessed the scene thought that the *Grafton* would cut into the Russian's bows. The tide was very strong at the time and it was certainly causing trouble in the steering of the *Grafton*. However, by skilful handling of the vessel what appeared to be an unavoidable collision was averted, the engines being set going to counteract the effect of the tide; but even then the *Grafton* crossed the Russian's bows only a few feet away. Naturally the incident caused considerable excitement on board the other ships, and credit is due to the captain of the *Grafton* for so ably steering the vessel under such difficult circumstances.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

A reward of fifty dollars has been offered by the Magistrate of the district of Ku-in for the capture of each of the two assistant leaders, named Deung-pat and Lai-sui, of the late revolution in that district. The chief conspirator was Ki King-san, who has already been decapitated.

Chang Yan-tsun, the Acting Treasurer, Fui Un, the Acting Provincial Judge, and Im Ki-fan, the Acting Grain Commissioner, took over the seals on the 23rd instant. On the 26th instant they all went to the various temples to worship the gods.

An attack was made by a band of about twenty robbers on the 18th instant at midnight on a village named Sun-chenn, near Fatshan. The village consists of about one thousand families and most of the villagers are mat-

makers and cracker-makers. The village was well protected, but the robbers selected the time when the policemen were changing their duties. The opportunity was favourable to them, and seven houses were robbed without difficulty.

The Prefect and the two local Magistrates again issued a joint notification on the 24th instant prohibiting the further raising of the prices of rice, oil, and firewood. If this notice is disregarded the offending sellers of the said articles will be severely dealt with.

On the 23rd instant about eighty salt-fish sellers went to see the Viceroy and present a petition. They said that the new farmer of the likin on salt fish is very cruel and can hardly be dealt with, and they asked the mercy of the Government. His Excellency told them to go back to their shops and he would see about the matter.

The prisoner who was arrested by the Chinese officers with the aid of Captain Hastings in Kowloon some time ago for making counterfeit coins has been sent up to Canton. His name is Tang Chang and he is about sixty years of age. He kept a shop named Yee-wo in Kowloon for many years. The frontage of the shop was used for the sale of second-hand things and the inner part for making counterfeit coins. He has been sent to the military court and a trial will soon be held there.

Owing to the revolution in Kansu, famine has made its appearance. The Canton Viceroy has sent lately to the province some money subscribed by the people.

Wong Wai-sun, the Acting Governor of Kwangsi, has been promoted to the Governorship of Yunnan. He is a Canton man, belonging to the Heungshan district. He has come back to Canton and will soon go to Peking to have an audience of the Emperor before going to take up the new appointment.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Japan Mail* has the following remarks on Herr von Brandt's return to China:—It is now definitely settled that Herr von Brandt, formerly German Representative in Peking, is to discharge the duties of Commercial Ambassador on his return to China—not an official appointment, but a commission from German merchants and manufacturers. The idea of the Germans is said to be, not merely to take advantage of the needs that China must feel in the sequel of the late war, but also to cultivate and develop her progressive desire to manufacture her own raw material and to be self-supplying in the matter of warlike apparatus. Herr von Brandt has hitherto posed as an uncompromising foe to Japan's expansion, on the ground that her manufacturing capacities would make her a keen competitor with the West in the markets of the world. He now offers proof of his sincerity and consistency by coming out to assist China in developing the very capacities that he denounced as a serious menace to the Occident in Japan's case.

Our Shanghai morning contemporary introduces an article on the pay of the Customs Service as follows:—If we might be allowed to enter a serious subject through a small pleantry, we should like to refer to a recent personal experience. A sprightly friend asked us to go with him to morning service, asserting that he never liked to miss the Customs' Psalm. The expression was new to us, but a nudge during the course of the *Confitebor tibi* (15th morning of the month) revealed the secret. The phrase was "For promotion cometh neither from the East nor from the West nor yet from the South: our friend, who by-the-by is not in the Customs, with a taste which we neither approve nor justify, took up the anti-phrase and sang: "For why? the I. G. is the judge: he putteth down one and setteth up another." With more dialectic zeal than sense he afterwards maintained that there was more than a coincidence in the appositeness of this song of Asaph to the circumstances of the China coast and he went on to apply its quaint phraseology further—that the Customs men "speak" not with a stiff neck, that they wisely set not up their horn on high, but trusting that their Chief shall judge according to right await his pleasure with the patience of the stolid ox.

reports that some Chinese business a steamship company to run two steamers regularly between Kobe and Shanghai, via Nagasaki. It can command Chinese business. An experiment will be made by at first chartering steamers, and one vessel has already been secured.

We (*Mercury*) learn that the Newchwang lightship which we reported a few days ago to be overdue at her destination left Chefoo on the 12th December for Shanghai, to winter there. She anchored off the Amberstock, outside the Tungsha Lightship, on the 16th and on the 18th was taken in tow by the *Chuentiao* and brought inside to Woosung.

At Shanghai a year's imprisonment each has just been given to two Chinamen for defacing two Chartered Bank notes, of \$5 and \$1 value, so as to make them appear of the value of \$500 and \$100 respectively and for passing them, well knowing them to be below their value, thereby defrauding the complainants, viz., two Chinese bankers, of the amounts named, in Tiendong Road on the 19th December.

The *Amoy Gazette* of the 16th December says:—We very much regret to have to chronicle the death of Mrs. C. T. Gardner, the beloved wife of Mr. Gardner, H.B.M. Consul at this port, which occurred yesterday morning at her residence in Kulangsoo. The funeral took place this morning at 7.30 a.m. and was attended by the Consular body, the members of the whole foreign community, and the captain, officers, and a detachment of bluejackets from H.M.S. *Caroline* now in harbour.

Looker-on in the *Japan Gazette* says:—The ladies are taking to cycling in Yokohama and when once it becomes popular amongst them we may look for developments in quite unexpected quarters. There still lingers in the minds of many a prejudice against this form of amusement, but even in such a conservative community as ours that is not ineradicable. A visitor, an American I believe, has been seen in bloomers and a short jacket. The bifurcated garments are not things of beauty and there is room for much improvement. The question of a lady cyclist's dress is still a puzzling problem. Skirts are evidently very inconvenient, and knickerbockers are neither fashionable nor graceful. But whatever the dress finally adopted it will be pretty. Bloomers are not pretty. On the contrary they make the handsomest women look ridiculous.

Keen competition is going on between the inhabitants of Fukuoka and Karatsu about the selection of a new port for foreign commerce, remarks the *Japan Mail*. These two places were in former times centres of trade with China, Fukuoka being the older. It is now generally felt that the rapid growth of industry and trade in Kyushu will necessitate the opening of a new port for foreign trade in the north of the island, and consequently great efforts are being made by the inhabitants of each place to have their own port selected for the purpose. As a practical means of attaining their object, they are competing with each other in schemes to improve their harbours. In the case of Karatsu, the port designed is not the one usually known by that name, but another in the same bay a little to the eastward, named Funakoshi. Deputations from both towns are now competing in Tokyo for the help of capitalists, and are also seeking to sound official views.

Our Anjer correspondent writes under date of 18th December:—Early yesterday morning a storm of unusual severity with vivid lightning and thunder and very heavy rain passed over Bodjong Anjer. The tom-tom sounded for a Baudjir at eleven o'clock. I went at once to see that the boats were properly secured and on returning to my house I found a rush of water coming from the mountains with great violence, which entirely flooded the place, the water not finding sufficient outlet to the sea. The water rose above two feet and flooded my house, which is only a foot from the ground, leaving a mass of mud all over the place. The other houses being raised about three feet from the ground escaped. On making enquiries into the cause of the flood we found that some large landslips had occurred at the foot of the mountains some two miles from us. The water subsided about two o'clock. At the time of writing it is still threatening rain and blowing hard from the westward.

Reliable private advices inform us (*China Gazette*) that there is serious friction between Baron Schenk Zu Schweinsberg, the German Minister in Peking, and M. von Brandt, the ex-Minister, who is now devoting his attention to mercantile questions. Baron Schweinsberg's reputation as a diplomatist stands very high in Peking and also with his own Government and he very naturally objects to any dictation from his venerable predecessor as to how he should manage his business.

The *China Gazette* says:—Numerous enquiries have lately been in progress on behalf of the Chinese Government for experienced and competent navigators, British only, all other foreigners being excluded, to proceed to some place abroad to bring out a new fleet of warships to China. Some have been already engaged by Wang Wen-shao, Viceroy of Chihli, or his deputies, and tempting terms are offered to the right men. It is very difficult to learn where exactly they are to go, but from information that has reached us we believe the ships have been purchased from the Chilean Government, which was willing to part with them to either the Japanese or Chinese during the war.

The *China Gazette* of the 21st December says:—There are no less than three vessels badly ashore up the Yangtze at the present moment, all undoubtedly due to the economy of their owners in trusting to native pilots. The first is a large two funnelled Chinese man-of-war, which has been stuck above Wuhu for some four months. She has had her stem badly twisted in the efforts made to get her off, but she is still hard and fast and bids fair to remain in her present position for many a long day. Then there is a Chinese despatch vessel belonging to the Viceroy Chang, which was coming down in a tearing hurry and piled herself high up abreast of the Calliope shoal. Thirdly, the steamer *Smith*, belonging to the defunct Formosan Government, is stuck on the shore at Gravener island with very little chance of getting off until next year. So much for Chinese pilots.

At Kobe on the 23rd December a fire occurred on the steamer *Azumor*. From the *Chronicle* we learn that the fire broke out in No. 2 hold, where coolies had been discharging American cotton shipped at Yokohama. There were about fifty bales to be discharged when the fire occurred, and the hatches were open, so that the smoke was quickly noticed and the bales were soon hoisted on to the deck and deluged with water. Most of the bales were more or less charred, but the cotton being so tightly packed it was able to offer a good deal of resistance to the fire. The Russian and Japanese men-of-war in the harbour sent ready help, but fortunately the ship's crew were quite able to cope with the outbreak. Though it is not definitely known how the fire occurred, it is conjectured that it resulted from the coolies smoking—a lighted match, perhaps, being thoughtlessly thrown down. The *Azumor* was to have left for Bombay on the 24th, but as inspections by Lloyd's surveyor and the surveyor of the Marine Insurance Company were necessary, the departure of the ship was postponed till daybreak on the 25th.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

SHANGHAI, 27th December.—(From Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co.'s circular).—Black Tea.—A small business has been done at about previous rates.

The following settlements are reported:—
Ningchow... 452 ½-chts. at Tls. 12½ a picul
Wenchow... 204 " shipped.
Oonam... 215 " at Tls. 13 "

Total 871 ½-chests.

Stock.—9,463 half-chests, against 4,814 half-chests at same date last year.

Green Teas.—Ping-uy.—Settlements reported are almost entirely on native account. Country Tea.—The market has been quiet. Tea-men are firm in their demands, but buyers are unwilling to give any advance on previous prices. Arrivals have been small and very little more can now be expected from the country. Steamer rates to New York via Suez Canal have been reduced to £1.10.0, though rates to London remain at £2.10.0 for 40 cubic feet.

Settlements reported since 13th instant:—

| | ½-chts. | a picul |
|--------------------|------------------------------|---------|
| Pingsuey | 1,792 shipped. | |
| Moyune | 2,694 at Tls. 14.75 to 27.00 | |
| Tienkai | 831 " 13.50 to 29.00 | |
| Fychow | 82 " 20.25 | |
| Local Packed | 164 shipped. | |

Total..... 5,563 ½-chts.

Total settlements from opening of the market to date:—

| | ½-chts. against 162,111 ½-chts. | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Pingsuey ... | 180,916 ½-chts. | |
| Moyune ... | 117,805 " 104,800 " | |
| Tienkai ... | 92,260 " 76,535 " | |
| Fychow ... | 23,852 " 18,097 " | |
| Local P'ked. | 22,621 " 17,136 " | |

Total..... 437,462 ½-chts. Total 378,688 ½-chts.

Total arrivals to date are:—441,828 half-chests, against 379,236 half-chests to same date last year.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

| | 1895-96 lbs. | 1894-95 lbs. |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Canton and Macao | 6,902,824 | 6,797,828 |
| Amoy | 440,573 | 719,368 |
| Foochow | 11,175,408 | 14,357,248 |
| Shanghai and Hankow... | 20,724,674 | 21,394,493 |
| | 39,243,479 | 43,268,937 |

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

| | 1895-96 lbs. | 1894-95 lbs. |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Amoy | 11,591,937 | 16,535,397 |
| Foochow | 6,066,651 | 4,626,555 |
| Shanghai | 27,873,078 | 24,972,926 |
| | 45,532,666 | 46,134,878 |

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

| | 1895-96 lbs. | 1894-95 lbs. |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Hankow and Shanghai... | 27,240,863 | 22,555,223 |

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

| | 1895-96 lbs. | 1894-95 lbs. |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Yokohama | 29,236,741 | 27,938,522 |
| Kobe | 18,012,100 | 16,154,509 |
| | 47,248,841 | 44,093,031 |

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 26th December.—(From Messrs. Cronie and Burkill's circular).—London telegrams dated 23rd instant report the Silk market "quiet." Gold Killing 8, 1½, and Blue Elephants 10/7½. Raw Silk.—Partly owing to adverse news from Europe, as well as the States, and Christmas holidays, the business done this week has been on a very small scale. The Chinese remain very firm in their demands, and seem inclined to wait for a renewal of business generally. Tsatlees.—A small parcel of Blue Elephants have been taken at Tls. 430. Taysams.—Small business at quotations. Yellow Silks.—Several parcels have changed hands at prices which show a slight advance. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, from the 19th to the 24th December are 476 bales of White, 126 bales of Yellow and 79 bales of Wild silk. Re-reels and Filatures.—No business to report. Waste Silk.—A parcel of Curles I, II, III has been taken at Tls. 58, and there are now no stocks of this article. There is a small business doing in Hankow Frisonets (whole bales) at Tls. 17. Pongees.—Small transactions at previous rates.

Purchases included:—Tsatlees.—Blue Elephant at Tls. 430. Taysam.—Green. Kahing Gr. Almond Flower 1 at Tls. 322½, 9/12 Moss Gold Bear Extra 1 at Tls. 255. Skins.—Chingyung at Tls. 227½ to Tls. 242½. Yellow Silk.—Mienchow at Tls. 237½, Fooyung at Tls. 207½ to Tls. 217½. Wongyi at Tls. 197½ to Tls. 212½, Wongchow at Tls. 195, Szechong at Tls. 175.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

| | 1895-96 bales. | 1894-95 bales. |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Shanghai | 43,064 | 32,571 |
| Canton | 11,148 | 8,946 |
| Yokohama | 14,199 | 13,058 |
| | 68,411 | 54,575 |

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

| | | |
|----------|--------|---------|
| | 189-96 | 1891-95 |
| | bales | bales |
| Canton | 8,235 | 5,336 |
| Shanghai | 6,990 | 5,790 |
| Yokohama | 22,768 | 17,711 |
| | 38,002 | 28,837 |

CANTON.

HONGKONG, 1st January.—The market is steady. Quotations for Fomosa are \$83.75 to \$84.00. During the past week sales have been 100 piculs.

SHANGHAI.

HONGKONG, 1st January.—The Market continues weak and a further decline has to be reported. Following are the quotations:—
 Shikloong No. 1, White, \$7.42 to 7.45 per pic.
 do. " 2, White, 6.89 to 6.90 "
 Shikloong No. 1, Brown, 4.80 to 4.82 "
 do. " 2, Brown, 4.63 to 4.65 "
 Swatow No. 1, White, 7.32 to 7.35 "
 do. " 2, White, 6.81 to 6.85 "
 do. " 1, Brown, 4.70 to 4.72 "
 Swatow No. 2, Brown, 4.61 to 4.65 "
 Pootoa Siam Candy, 10.82 to 10.95 "
 Shikloong " " 9.90 to 9.92 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The German steamer *Endo*, Hongkong to Su-zu, 23rd December, took:—100 packages Tea; for Havre:—2,971 rolls Matting, 903 packages Tea, 150 cases Cassia, 21 cases Human Hair, 57 cases Bristles, 340 bales Cines, 4 cases Feathers, 110 cases Chinaware, 13 cases Blackwoodware, 4 cases China Ink, 4 boxes Vermilion, and 1 package Samples; for Havre option Hamburg:—82 bales Cines, 531 rolls Mats, 6 bales Bamboo scraps, 17 cases Chinaware, 6 cases Woolware, 110 cases Camphor, 1,000 bales Broken Cassia, and 10 cases Vermilion; for Havre option Hamburg option London:—1,100 cases Chinaware, 1,000 boxes Cassia Ligna, 16 cases Essential Oil, and 25 boxes Staranised; for Havre option Hamburg option Antwerp:—100 cases Bristles; for Havre option Hamburg option London option Antwerp:—81 cases Bristles; for Hamburg:—512 packages Tea, 6 cases Cines, 200 lbs Matting, 191 cases Ginger, 2 cases Ginger, 583 packages Cines, 41 cases Bristles, 22 bales Rattan Savings, 8 cases Blackwoodware, 31 cases Chinaware, 40 bales Rattan, 408 bales Feathers, 18 packages Rattan, 15 bales Palmers, 195 cases Palmolefins, 60 cases Essential Oil, 100 cases Camphor, 27 cases Bamboo fans, 30 cases Teapots, 100 cases Cassia, and 22 packages Cines; for London:—6 cases China and Lacquered Ware; for New York:—11 cases Essential Oil.

The steamer *Tower*, Hongkong to London, 24th December, took:—30 bales Waste Silk, 29 bales Hemp, 29 cases Bristles, 36 cases Cigars, 49 cases Bristles, 2 cases Blackwoodware, 58 cases Chinaware, 100 cases Preserves, 199 cases Preserves, 27 bags Gums, 18 baskets Shells, and 25 packages Sundries; for London option Manchester:—50 bales Waste Silk; for Liverpool:—70 bales Hemp, 3 cases Cigars, and 1 package Sundries; for Southampton:—17 packages Sundries.

The steamer *Sigilica*, Hongkong to Continent, 25th December, took:—152 bales Raw Silk, 11 cases Silk Piece Goods, 6 cases Glass Bangles, 150 cases Cassia, 7 cases Cigars, 6 packages Matting, 212 packages Tea, and 9 bales Hair.

The British steamship *Moyure*, Hongkong to London, 25th December, took:—501 packages Tea (particulars unknown), 2.0 rolls Mats, 200 bales Pierced Corons, 180 cases Preserves, 170 bales Cines, 135 cases Preserves, 100 bales Waste Silk, 67 cases Blackwoodware, 50 packages Merchandise, 43 boxes Essential Oil, 30 cases Private Effects, 20 cases Gongs, 12 cases Cigars, 8 cases Bristles, 5 cases Bambooware, 5 cases Camphorwood Trunks, 4 cases Horse Hair, and 2 cases Silks; for Glasgow:—80 cases Ginger, and 1 case Chinese Ink; for New York:—2 cases Essential Oil; for Buenos Ayres:—280 packages Tea. From Canton for London option Manchester:—100 bales Waste Silk. From Manila for London:—5,000 bales Hemp.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 31st December.—Bengal.—The market has ruled dull and a decline in prices has taken place. New Patna closes at \$715, Old at \$742; New Benares at \$735, last year's New Benares at \$735, and Old Benares at \$700.

Malwa.—New drug has been in demand and has to prevail in value, other descriptions closing quiet. Current rates are as under:—
 New Patna \$730 with allowance of 1 to 1 catty
 Old (25 yrs.) \$740 " " 1 to 1 "
 Old (6/8 yrs.) \$750 " " 1 to 1 "
 Persian.—There has not been anything doing in the interval, and rates are weaker. Paper-wrap, ed being quoted at the close at \$700 to \$780, and Oily at \$650 to \$690 according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| New Patna | 198 chests. |
| Old Patna | 1,335 " |
| New Benares | 267 " |
| Last Year's New Benares | 714 " |
| Old Benares | 720 " |
| Malwa | 560 " |
| Persian | 960 " |

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET

| DATE | PATNA | | BENARES | | MALWA | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|---------|
| | New | Old | New | Old | New | Old |
| 1895, 1 | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Dec. 25 | 757 1/2 | 755 | 715 | 750 7/8 | 730 | 740 5/8 |
| Dec. 26 | 757 1/2 | 755 | 742 1/2 | 750 7/8 | 730 | 740 5/8 |
| Dec. 27 | 757 1/2 | 755 | 740 | 743 1/2 | 730 | 740 5/8 |
| Dec. 28 | 752 1/2 | 748 1/2 | 737 1/2 | 740 | 730 | 740 5/8 |
| Dec. 29 | 752 1/2 | 748 1/2 | 737 1/2 | 740 | 730 | 740 5/8 |
| Dec. 30 | 740 | 748 1/2 | 737 1/2 | 740 | 730 | 740 5/8 |
| Dec. 31 | 747 1/2 | 742 1/2 | 735 | 735 7/8 | 730 | 740 5/8 |

RICE.

HONGKONG, 1st January.—The advance in rates continues, owing to the smallness of supplies. In Cebu-Chia the crops have been damaged by drought. Closing quotations are:—

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Round, good quality | 2.15 to 2.17 |
| Long | 2.42 to 2.45 |
| Long, good quality, No. 2 | 2.60 to 2.63 |
| Long, good quality, No. 1 | 2.20 to 2.22 |
| Long, good quality, No. 1 | 2.67 to 2.70 |
| Siam White | 2.8 to 2.91 |
| Long, good quality | 3.17 to 3.20 |

COALS.

HONGKONG, 1st January.—Market keeps fairly steady. Small sales of Japanese on private terms are reported. Quotations are:—
 Car 1st \$12.00 to 13.00 ex ship, nominal.
 Car 2nd 8.00 to — ex ship, nominal.
 Middle 1st 5.75 to 6.90 ex ship, nominal.
 Middle 2nd 5.00 to — ex ship, nominal.
 Middle 3rd 4.00 to 5.50 ex ship, nominal.
 Kela 1st 6.00 to 7.00 ex ship, nominal.
 Kela 2nd 4.00 to 4.50 ex ship, nominal.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 31st December.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

COTTON AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarns.—15 bales No. 1 at \$96, 100 bales No. 10 at \$ 0 1/2 to \$ 1/2, 300 bales No. 12 at \$70 1/2 to \$74 1/2, 16 bales No. 16 at \$80 1/2 to \$100, 830 bales No. 20 at \$72 to \$80. Grey Shirtings.—8 1/2 lbs.—600 pieces Blue Fish at \$2 1/2, 600 pieces Flag Tiger at \$1.90, 600 pieces Double Fish at \$2.97 1/2, 600 pieces \$ Dogs at \$1.95, 400 pieces Blue Josi Bat at \$3 to \$3.24, 300 pieces Double Fish at \$2.95, 10 lbs.—500 pieces Blue 7 Boys at \$3.55, 11 lbs.—400 pieces Red Flower at \$3.15. White Shirtings.—1,000 pieces O Mark at \$4.25 to \$4.30, 500 pieces No. 400 Two Fish at \$3.40, 300 pieces No. 1 at \$ 1.90, 300 pieces No. 2 at \$6.25, 300 pieces No. 3 at \$6.50, 500 pieces No. 4 at \$1.81, 250 pieces XX at \$4. Victoria Ladens.—5,000 pieces 2 Fish at \$0.21 to arrive, 2,400 pieces Lion at \$0.66, 4,000 pieces Brown Stag at \$0.64. T-Cloths.—1,500 pieces 6 lbs. Bombay at \$1.61, 7 lbs. Mexican—1,875 pieces Silver Pleasant at \$1.85, 375 pieces Gold at \$2.00, 3,000 pieces Red Stag at \$2.40, 1,125 pieces Soldier Shooting at \$2.32 1/2, 8 lbs.—300 pieces X M. at \$2.40, 600 pieces VV at \$2.96, 600 pieces XX at \$3.01. Figured Italians.—400 pieces Sleeping Girl at \$0.13 1/2 to arrive.
 METAL.—Iron.—1,000 bundles English Square Rods at \$3.12 1/2. Tin Plates.—400 boxes at \$5.35. Quicksilver.—500 flasks at \$117 to \$118.50.

SHANGHAI, 26th December.—(From Mr. Geo. W. Noel's report.)—There is very little to advise respecting the state of the market this week broken into as it has been by the holidays customary at this festive season. The startling telegrams received early in the interval in connection with the Venezuelan dispute caused a certain amount of uneasiness feeling in business circles, otherwise no effects of the serious financial panic reported to be prevailing in consequence have been felt here. The actual amount done

this week is small, although appear in the book, but they are sales either made sometime ago or the goods have just changed hands again, so that the only real indication of the position can be gathered from the Auction this morning, and that shows a steady to firm demand generally. Clearances keep up remarkably well, money evidently being plentiful among the dealers.

TUESDAY, 31st December.
CLOSING QUOTATIONS.
EXCHANGE.

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| ON LONDON.— | |
| Telegraphic Transfer | 2/14 |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 2/14 |
| Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight | — |
| Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight | 2/14 |
| Credits, at 4 months' sight | 2/24 |
| Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight | 2/24 |
| ON PARIS.— | |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 2.69 |
| Credits, at 4 months' sight | 2.75 |
| ON GERMANY.— | |
| On demand | 2.18 |
| ON NEW YORK.— | |
| Bank Bills, on demand | — |
| Credits, 60 days' sight | — |
| ON BOMBAY.— | |
| Telegraphic Transfer | 182 1/2 |
| Bank, on demand | 182 1/2 |
| ON CALCUTTA.— | |
| Telegraphic Transfer | 182 1/2 |
| Bank, on demand | 182 1/2 |
| ON SHANGHAI.— | |
| Bank, at sight | 72 1/2 |
| Private, 30 days' sight | 73 1/2 |
| ON YOKOHAMA.— | |
| On demand | par. |
| ON MANILA.— | |
| On demand | 7 1/2 pm. |
| ON SINGAPORE.— | |
| On demand | par. |
| SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate | — |
| GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael | 48 |

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 31st December.—The Christmas and approaching New Year holidays have interfered with business and we have nothing of any importance to report. Rates continue to be well maintained and with the pretty generally good results for the year ending to-day anticipated by our local Companies, they are likely to continue at least steady if not to improve.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled unchanged at 181 per cent. prem. for cash. A few small lots have been placed at that rate and some further small parcels are wanted; larger lots, however, are obtainable at quotation. Sales are reported at 187 per cent. prem. for February and at 190 per cent. prem. for March. Nationals have been neglected.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Beyond small sales of Unions at \$197 1/2 and \$200 we have nothing to report.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong's continue their upward course, and sales have been effected at \$267 1/2, \$270, and a reported one at \$272 1/2; they close firm and higher rates may be looked for. Chinas have changed hands at \$88 1/2 and \$89, closing with buyers at latter rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao after ruling steady all the week eased up over settlements, and sales were effected at \$37 and \$37 1/2, market closing steady at latter rate. Douglases have changed hands at \$53 and China & Manilas at \$70, both closing quiet at the rates. Indo-Chinas have changed hands at \$58, but more shares are obtainable at that rate.

REFINERIES have ruled totally neglected.

MINING.—Punjoms have changed hands at \$5. Balmorals have declined without sales to \$1 1/2. We have nothing else to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have further improved their position to 149 per cent. prem. with sales at that and at 152 and 153 per cent. prem. for January. Market closes steady with an upward tendency. It seems to be an open secret that the Company will have some \$500,000 for division, the result of the last half year's working, including amount brought forward. Wharfs have ruled quiet and close weak at \$49. Godowns continue neglected.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Lands have been in some demand and have changed hands in fair lots at \$68½ and \$69, closing with buyers at latter rate. We have nothing else to report under this heading.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands are now quoted at \$14½ ex new issue. Watsons have ruled weak with sellers at \$12 and no sales. Ices have advanced to \$97 with sales and Dairies have been done at \$9 ex. div.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

| COMPANY. | PAID UP. | QUOTATIONS. |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| Banks— | | |
| Hongkong & Shanghai | \$125 | 181 p. ct. prem. |
| China & Japan, prf. | ... | nominal |
| Do. ordinary | £1 | nominal |
| Do. deferred | £1 | £2, buyers |
| Natl. Bank of China | | |
| B. Shares | £8 | \$27 |
| Foun. Shares | £1 | \$105, sellers |
| Bell's Asbestos E. A. | 15s. | \$10, sellers |
| Brown & Co., H. G. | \$50 | \$6, sellers |
| Campbell, Moore & Co. | \$10 | \$3, buyers |
| Carmichael & Co. | \$20 | \$10, sellers |
| China Sugar | \$100 | \$114 |
| Chinese Loan '86 E. | Tls. 250 | 10 p. ct. prem. |
| Dakin, Cruickshank & Co. | \$5 | \$1 |
| Dairy Farm Co. | \$10 | \$9, ex div. |
| Fenwick & Co., Geo. | \$25 | \$20, buyers |
| Green Island Cement | \$10 | \$14½, ex new issue |
| H. Brick and Cement | \$12½ | \$7.50, buyers |
| H. & C. Bakery | \$50 | \$36 |
| Hongkong & C. Gas | £10 | \$100, buyers |
| Hongkong Electric | \$8 | \$6½, buyers |
| H. H. L. Tramways | \$100 | \$90 |
| Hongkong Hotel | \$50 | \$19, buyers |
| Hongkong Ice | \$25 | \$97, sales |
| H. & K. Wharf & G. | \$50 | \$49, sellers |
| Hongkong Rope | \$50 | \$150, sellers |
| H. & W. Dock | \$125 | 149 p. c. prem., sales & buyers |
| Insurances— | | |
| Canton | \$50 | \$195, buyers |
| China Fire | \$20 | \$89, buyers |
| China Traders' | \$25 | \$74, sellers |
| Hongkong Fire | \$50 | \$270, buyers |
| North-China | £25 | Tls. 225, sellers |
| Straits | \$20 | \$24½, sellers |
| Union | \$25 | \$200, sellers |
| Yangtze | \$60 | \$121, sellers |
| Land and Building— | | |
| H. Land Investment | \$50 | \$69, sales & buyers |
| Humphreys Estate | \$10 | \$9½ |
| Kowloon Land & B. | \$30 | \$16½ |
| West Point Building | \$40 | \$19½ |
| Luzon Sugar | \$100 | \$60, sellers |
| Mining— | | |
| Charbonnages | Fcs. 500 | \$75 |
| Jebeu | \$5 | \$2.90, sellers |
| New Balmoral | \$3 | \$1½, sellers |
| Punjom | \$4 | \$5, sales & sellers |
| Do. (Preference) | \$1 | \$1.60 |
| Raub | 13s. 10d. | \$3.75, buyers |
| Steamship Coys.— | | |
| China and Manila | \$50 | \$70, sales & buyers |
| China Shippers | £5 | £2.10 |
| Douglas S. S. Co. | \$50 | \$53, sales & sellers |
| H. Canton and M. | \$20 | \$37½, sales & sellers |
| Indo-China S. N. | £10 | \$58, sellers |
| Wanchai Warehouse Co. | \$37½ | \$42, sellers |
| Watson & Co., A. S. | \$10 | \$12½, sellers |

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers

SHANGHAI, 27th December.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report.)—The annual holidays have practically put a stop to business. We quote business done in Hongkong and Shanghai Banks at 183 per cent., 184 per cent., 185 per cent. premium for cash, and for March delivery at 190 per cent. Our cash quotation of 185 per cent. is nominal. London quotes to-day £40. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas have been done at Tls. 42 and Tls. 42½ and can be had at the latter rate. Transactions in Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboats are reported at \$37 for cash and \$37.50 for February delivery. We have no confirmation of the rumour that the West River has been opened. We fear the report is premature. Docks.—S. C. Farnham & Co. are reported sold at Tls. 186. Marine Insurance.—A transaction is reported in China Traders at \$73, Straits have been bought from Hongkong at \$24½. Yangtszes have changed hands at \$120. Fire Insurance.—Transactions in China Fires are reported at \$89. Shares are worth attention at this rate. Wharves.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves have been sold at Tls. 315. Business has also to be noted in Shanghai Cargo Boats at Tls. 265 for cash and at Tls. 220 for delivery in March. In China Sugar Refining Co. at \$112.50, Sumatra Tobacco Co. shares at Tls. 99, and Debenture of the same company at \$77 and \$110 cash, in Perak Sugars at Tls. 36 and Major Brothers at Tls. 28½.

Quotations are:—

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—185 per cent. prem.
Bank of China, Japan and The Straits, Limited.—Nominal.
Bank of China, Japan and The Straits, Limited, Founders.—Nominal.
National Bank of China, Ltd., A.—none.
National Bank of China, Ltd., B.—\$27½.
National Bank of China, Ltd., Founders.—\$105.
Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 152½ per sh.
Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 42½ per sh.
China-Mutual Steam Nav. Co.—Tls. 50 per sh.
Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—Tls. 75 per sh.
Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$37 per share.
Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$53 per share.
Rovd & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Tls. 300 per share.
Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 19½ per share.
S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 186 per share.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—146 per cent. premium.
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$73 per sh.
North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 225 p. sh.
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$198½ per share.
Yangtze Insee. Assocn., Ltd.—\$120 per share.
Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$192½ per share.
Straits Insurance Co., Limited.—\$25 per share.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—260 per sh.
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$89 per share.
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 315 per share.
Birt's Wharf Hides-during and Wool-cleaning Company.—Tls. 55 per share.
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited.—\$49 per share.
Siberian Consolidated Mining and Milling Company, Limited.—Tls. 2½ per share.
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd.—\$52½ per share.
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd., pref. shares—\$1.50 per share.
Jebeu Mining & Trading Co., Ltd.—\$3 per sh.
Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ltd.—\$3½ p. sh.
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 202 per sh.
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 185 per sh.
Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 202 per share.
Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.—\$6.75 per share.
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 182½ p. sh.
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 3½ per share.
China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$112½ per sh.
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$59 per share.
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$25 per share.
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd.—Tls. 70 per share.
Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$69½ per share.
Kowloon Land & Building Co., Ltd.—\$17½.
J. Llewellyn & Co., Limited.—\$40 per share.
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 51 per share.
Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 25 per share.
Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 99 per sh.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 235 per share.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd., Founder's.—Nominal.
Shanghai Ice Company.—Tls. 130 per share.
A. S. Watson Co., Limited.—\$13 per share.
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.—£1.
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.—\$9 50.
Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 40.
International Cotton Man. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 47½.
Laou-kung-mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd.—Tls. 47½.
China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company Debentures.—Nominal.
Lyceum Theatre Debentures.—Tls. 15.
Chinese Imp. Gov. Loan, 1886, E.—Tls. 275 (a).
Shanghai Municipal Debentures.—Nominal.
Shanghai Land Investment Company Debentures.—Tls. 105 (a).
Shanghai Land Investment Company Debentures.—Tls. 110 (a).

(a) Exclusive of accrued interest.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 31st December.—Freights continue dull, with but little demand.

From Saigon to Hongkong there was a brisk demand for ready steamers during the early part of the past fortnight, the rate advancing to 13½ cents per picul; at the close, however, there is scarcely any enquiry, the rate being weak at 11 cents per picul.

From Bangkok to this there is no demand; the rate remains nominally 15 cents inside and 10 cents outside the bar.

Japan coal freights to Singapore \$1.55 per ton has been paid; to Hongkong there is a limited demand at \$1.25 per ton.

A sailer has been fixed hence for New York at about 20s. per ton of 40 cubic feet. The American

ship *Wandering Jew*, 1,650 tons, has been sold by public auction, the hull, stores, &c., realizing \$12,000.

There are two vessels disengaged in port, registering 1,386 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

Daniel Barnes—American ship, 1,436 tons, hence to New York.

Elizabeth—German barque, 447 tons, Rajang to Hongkong, \$3.750 in full.

Kueiyang—British steamer, 1,062 tons, Singapore to Nagasaki, \$4 per ton.

Strathdee—British steamer, 1,719 tons, Kuchinotzu to Singapore, \$1.55 per ton.

Anjer Head—British steamer, 1,235 tons, Moji to Swatow, \$1.70 per ton.

Benvenue—British steamer, 1,468 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.25 per ton.

Mascotte—British steamer, 2,018 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.25 per ton.

Siam—British steamer, 992 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 12 cents per picul.

Adowa—British steamer, 1,347 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 12½ cents per picul.

Scatow—German steamer, 724 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, \$2.500 in full.

Sabine Rickmers—German steamer, 690 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13½ cents per picul.

Taiyick—German steamer, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.

Stratheden—British steamer, 1,583 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 11 cents per picul.

Marie Jebsen—German steamer, 1,817 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 11½ cents per picul.

Bygd—Norwegian steamer, 771 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 12 cents per picul.

Deuteros—German steamer, 1,451 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 11½ cents per picul.

Wooten—German steamer, 1,016 tons, monthly, 6/3, 3 months, \$5.350 per month.

VESSELS ON THE PERTH.

For LONDON.—*Glenfarg* (str.), *Mazagon* (str.), *Japan* (str.) *Peking* (str.).

For BREMEN.—*Sachsen* (str.).

For HAVRE.—*Hertou* (str.).

For VANGUVER.—*Empress of China* (str.).

For MARSEILLES.—*Clam* (str.), *Orus* (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—*City of Rio de Janeiro* (str.), *Gaelic* (str.), *Broddick Castle*.

For VICTORIA.—*Tucuma* (str.).

For NEW YORK.—*John R. Kelley*, *Polypemus* (str.).

For BALTIMORE.—*Amy Turner*.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST

MAIL.

HONGKONG.

December — ARRIVALS.

- 24, Marie Jebsen, German str., from Saigon.
- 25, Fréjr, Danish str., from Pakhoi.
- 25, Adowa, German str., from Canton.
- 25, Mascotte, British str., from Moji.
- 25, Bengloe, British str., from Amoy.
- 25, Nanyang, German str., from Chinkiang.
- 25, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 25, Catherine Apear, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
- 25, Shengking, British str., from Shanghai.
- 25, Wing Hong, British str., from Swatow.
- 25, Natal, French str., from Marseilles.
- 26, Paoting, British str., from Canton.
- 26, Cassius, German str., from Moji.
- 26, Germania, British str., from Moji.
- 26, Ask, Danish str., from Hoihow.
- 26, Fuping, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 26, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
- 26, Menmuir, British str., from Sydney.
- 26, Picciola, German str., from Saigon.
- 26, Kwongmo, British str., from Amoy.
- 26, Romulus, German str., from Bangawanga.
- 27, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
- 27, Taisang, British str., from Canton.
- 27, Brindisi, British str., from Bombay.
- 27, Palawan, British str., from London.
- 27, Thales, British str., from Swatow.
- 27, Feiching, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 27, Keong Wai, British str., from Bangkok.
- 27, Szechuen, British str., from Java.
- 27, Daphne, German str., from Chinkiang.
- 28, Foyle, British str., from Canton.
- 28, Hong Leong, British str., from Singapore.
- 28, Peshawur, British str., from Bombay.
- 28, Ocampo, British str., from Kobe.
- 28, Tamsui, British str., from Canton.
- 28, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 28, Kaifong, British str., from Canton.

28, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
 28, Activ, Danish str., from Pakhoi.
 28, Ningchow, British str., from Glasgow.
 29, Asloun, British str., from Kobe.
 29, Ceylon, British str., from Japan.
 29, City of Rio de Janeiro, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
 29, Cosmopolit, German str., from Pakhoi.
 29, Denteros, German str., from Saigon.
 29, Hsinfung, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 29, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
 29, Kwongsang, British str., from Wuhu.
 28, Letimbro, Italian str., from Bombay.
 29, Merionethshire, Brit. str., from N. York.
 29, Peiyang, German str., from Canton.
 29, Shengking, British str., from Canton.
 29, Strathleven, British str., from Whampoa.
 29, Stanfield, British bark, from Sandakan.
 29, Grafton, British cruiser, from Gibraltar.
 30, El Dorado, British str., from Wuhu.
 30, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
 30, Martha, German str., from Singapore.
 30, Pyrrhus, British str., from Liverpool.
 30, Verona, British str., from Yokohama.
 30, China, German str., from Saigon.
 30, Rosetta, British str., from Saigon.
 30, Brunhilde, German str., from Bangkok.
 30, Hongkong, French str., from Hoihow.
 31, Nanyang, German str., from Canton.
 31, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
 31, Glenartney, British str., from London.
 31, Tulenkun, Amr. sch., from Ponape.
 31, Taksang, British str., from Canton.
 31, Phra Nang, British str., from Bangkok.
 31, Hangchow, British str., from Chinkiang.

December— DEPARTURES.

25, Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., for Saigon.
 25, Oscarshol, Norw. str., for Bangkok.
 25, Taksang, British str., for Canton.
 25, Empress of Japan, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
 25, Moyune, British str., for Singapore.
 25, Repton, British str., for Bangkok.
 25, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
 25, Loosok, British str., for Swatow.
 25, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
 25, Ingraban, German str., for Saigon.
 25, Saghalien, French str., for Europe.
 25, Swatow, German str., for Saigon.
 25, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
 25, Lennox, British str., for Yokohama.
 26, Michael Jensen, German str., for Tournon.
 26, Nanyang, German str., for Canton.
 26, Natal, French str., for Shanghai.
 26, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
 26, Taiyick, German str., for Saigon.
 26, Shengking, British str., for Canton.
 27, Memnon, British str., for Sandakan.
 27, John Baizley, Amr. sch., for Whampoa.
 27, Adowa, German str., for Saigon.
 27, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 27, Coptic, British str., for San Francisco.
 28, Altmere, British str., for Moji.
 28, Foyle, British str., for Kebao.
 28, Amur, British str., for Amoy.
 28, Wing Hong, British str., for Swatow.
 28, Porpoise, British str., for Amoy.
 28, Bengloe, British str., for New York.
 28, Hankow, British str., for Tacoma.
 28, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 28, Menmuir, British str., for Shanghai.
 28, Taisang, British str., for Swatow.
 29, Boynton, British str., for Kutchinotzu.
 29, Fuping, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 29, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
 29, Independent, German str., for Swatow.
 29, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Saigon.
 29, Kaifong, British str., for Shanghai.
 29, Peshawur, British str., for Shanghai.
 29, Tamsui, British str., for Swatow.
 29, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 30, Arcona, German corvette, for Amoy.
 30, Kaiser, German ironclad, for Amoy.
 30, El Dorado, British str., for Canton.
 30, Hong Leong, British str., for Amoy.
 30, Hsinfung, Chinese str., for Canton.
 30, Kwongmo, British str., for Amoy.
 30, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 30, Shengking, British str., for Shanghai.
 31, Merionethshire, British str., for Shanghai.
 31, Marie Jensen, German str., for Saigon.
 31, Bygdo, Norw. str., for Saigon.
 31, Ningchow, British str., for Shanghai.
 31, Szechuen, British str., for Shanghai.
 31, Catherine Apar, British str., for Calcutta.
 31, Ocampo, British str., for Australia.
 31, Peiyang, German str., for Shanghai.

31, STRATHLEVEN, British str., for Saigon.
 31, Sultan, Norw. str., for Bangkok.

FOOCHOW.

December—

ARRIVALS.

15, Yiksang, British str., from Shanghai.
 16, Tsinan, British str., from Japan.
 19, Haeshin, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 20, Bengloe, British str., from Shanghai.
 20, Haitan, British str., from Hongkong.
 20, Loksang, British str., from Hongkong.
 December— DEPARTURES.
 14, Malacca, British str., for London.
 16, Clara, German str., for Tamsui.
 18, Tsinan, British str., for Australia.
 18, Yiksang, British str., for Shanghai.
 21, Haeshin, Chinese str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per Catherine Apar, str., from Calcutta, &c.—Messrs. D. E. Daniels, Kelly, Fong Chee, and A. J. Solomon, Mrs. Leong Shee and child, Mrs. Yew Shee and child, and 638 Chinese.
 Per Haitan, str., from Coast Ports—Mrs. Roach, Mrs. May, Messrs. Fairhurst and Moss.
 Per Shengking, str., from Shanghai—Mr. Maundell.
 Per Wing Hong, str., from Swatow—Mr. Thomas.
 Per Natal, str., for Hongkong from Marseilles—Lieut. Ray, Mrs. Leridan, Messrs. E. Choseler, Delineau, Chin Huan Key, Chin Juin, Chin Jeur Show, José das Neves Y. Souza, From Singapore—Misses Green and Mary West, Messrs. Lagarde, Thaler, O. Gdansk, Lin Chuan Poo, Low Ghee Siang, Loo Choo, Mr. and Mrs. Chan Toe Lam, From Saigon—Mr. E. Jeyer, For Shanghai from Marseilles—Mr. Meillet, From Port Said—Mr. Ruben Chaoul Sassoun, From Suez—Lieut. Bohus van Villagas, For Nagasaki from Singapore—Mrs. Omoksay, Mrs. Ootoku, and Mrs. Ohkesan, For Kobe from Saigon—Mr. Jakeonty, For Yokohama from Marseilles—Capt. Jacques and son, Mr. and Mrs. Slumine, Messrs. Kartzone and Clayton, From Singapore—Sisters Domitine and St. Bernardin, From Saigon—Dr. Mécre and Mr. Graindorge.
 Per Menmuir, str., from Sydney, &c.—Mrs. Craig and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Rosenthal, Mrs. Buckhold, Mr. and Mrs. De Silva, Capt. Grant, Dr. Almeida, Messrs. W. Brumfield and M. Ozorio.
 Per Keong Wai, str., from Bangkok—Mr. B. Dickson.
 Per Choysang, str., from Shanghai, &c.—Miss Chambarand, and Messrs. Ogilvie, Heang and servant.
 Per Peshawur, str., for Hongkong from Colombo, Lieut. Nugent, From London, Mr. and Mrs. Buckland, Jr., Messrs. W. T. McMullen, Smart, and Percy Fowler, Commr. A. Galloway, Mrs. Bell-Irving and maid, Miss Piercy, For Shanghai, Messrs. O. Stevenson, F. Olsen, C. S. Hicks, Torraine, Greirson, C. W. Thomas, and W. R. Ainsworth, For Yokohama, Mr. H. W. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Brocklebank and child, Mr. and Mrs. Brown, From Brindisi for Manila, Messrs. P. Westendorff, Gudden, J. S. G. Brown, and E. H. R. Walker, For Shanghai, Signor and Signora Ghisi, From Bombay, Mr. A. Griffith, For Hongkong from Singapore, Dr. Noble, Messrs. Aho Yanglee, Wong Why Tong, Wong Chee, Lok Foon, and Yeok Ling.
 Per Ningchow, str., from Glasgow, &c.—Capt. Neilsen.
 Per Hsinfung, str., from Shanghai—Baron von Siebold and Dr. Kanner.
 Per City of Rio de Janeiro, str., from San Francisco, &c.—Messrs. A. Henry, F. J. Burke, D. W. Gilmour, and M. S. Niswander.
 Per Pyrrhus, str., from Liverpool, &c.—Messrs. Price and Humphries and children.
 Per Verona, str., from Yokohama for Hongkong—Messrs. C. Mead and E. Fowler, For Ismailia—Mr. R. Davis, For Port Said—Mr. and Mrs. Harmon, For Brindisi—Mr. H. Shoda, For London—Capt. Du Boulay, Mr. F. Stewart, Miss Clemson, From Kobe for Hongkong—Capt. Christensen, Messrs. H. Hagenberg, H. Volkerr, F. Löck, Nielson, Niemann, Simonsen, and Habeck, For Bombay—Mr. D. Inglis, From Nagasaki for Hongkong—Mrs. Moogan, Misses Harugi (2), Mrs. Yaami and Misses Yaami (3).

Per Rosetta, str., from Shanghai, for Hongkong—Capt. W. H. Thompson, Messrs. Thurburn, C. Rambach, and Fong Shin Chock, For Singapore—Mr. Rosener Manz and Miss Otova, For Brindisi—Mr. and Mrs. Ackerman, For London—Miss F. Reid, Messrs. R. F. Kestell and R. C. Harris, For Sydney—Mr. Daniel Wisas, From Yokohama for Hongkong—Mr. C. W. Ure, For Ismailia—Mr. E. A. Hart, Mrs. Matthew Hart, Miss Mary Hart.

DEPARTED.

Per Empress of Japan, str., from Hongkong for Shanghai—Messrs. A. K. Holman, Eldridge, L. Orielle, and Surgeon-Major James, For Kobe—Dr. Von Forrester, Mr. Von Forrester, and Miss Tei Zukuki, For Yokohama—Mr. G. Galy, For Portland—Mrs. Chin Back Joy, and Miss Chin Chew Far, For Astoria—Mr. Chen Jor, Mrs. Tai Ho, Misses A. Fong and A. Chung, For London—Capt. Stewart, From Yokohama for San Francisco—Rev. and Mrs. G. W. Morrison and two children.
 Per Moyune, steamer, from Hongkong for Singapore—Mr. J. M. Thow, From Shanghai for London—Mr. W. Bates and 2 other gentlemen.
 Per Thales, steamer, for Swatow—Mr. and Mrs. Yue Pack Sang and Mr. Lee Pat Ng.
 Per Zafiro, str., for Manila—Messrs. Richards, J. A. Pfuetzner, R. H. Wright, and R. H. Carper.
 Per Saghalien, str., from Hongkong for Saigon—Rev. J. B. Clair, Messrs. J. Cauvin, F. Woels, Chu, Kiau Hong, and Keat Cheng, For Singapore—Messrs. G. A. C. Ward and E. Roenard, Mrs. Elsa Iovesko, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Abbey, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold and 3 children, For Batavia—Messrs. M. Hauschild and Francisco Newton, For Marseilles—Mr. and Mrs. Lyaudet and child, Mr. Leon Michelot, Colonel St. Paul, Commander W. Roundneff, Messrs. G. de Champeaux, A. Stewart, N. Sorensen, and E. J. Moss, For Saigon from Shanghai—Admiral de Beaumont, Messrs. Bonnifay and Cordera, For Singapore from Yokohama—Messrs. Tanzawa and C. Ferrari, From Nagasaki—Messrs. C. Rieger and Nagatoya, Mrs. Hirano, For Suez from Nagasaki—Mr. Shapoulis, For Port Said—Mr. Craval, For Marseilles from Shanghai—Mr. and Mrs. Otto Maetzky, Mr. and Mrs. von Brockdorff and 2 children, Messrs. Landauer, Le Genel, Aubry Victor, Le Madel, Cauton, Brobecker, R. Maudet, Honard, and Breton Eugène, From Yokohama—Mr. and Mrs. King and daughter, From Kobe—Messrs. Levat, Sabachnikoff, F. Martin, and Fongeranot, From Nagasaki—Mr. Vitta.
 Per Coptic, str., for Yokohama—Mr. A. B. Brown, For Honolulu—Mr. Hamilton Sharp, For San Francisco—Right Rev. A. E. Medlycott, Messrs. Thos. Fairhurst, R. W. Bachrach, J. Kennedy, Ernest Bergendorff, and Dr. R. J. Bowie, For New York—Messrs. Louis B. Quick and Alex. O'Brien.
 Per Natal, str., from Hongkong for Shanghai—Rev. Hunde, Mr. F. X. Rodrigues, Mrs. C. Machado and 2 children, For Shanghai from Marseilles—Mr. Meillet, From Port Said—Mr. Ruben Chaoul Sassoun, From Suez—Lieut. Bohus Van Villagas, For Nagasaki from Singapore—Mrs. Omoksay, Mrs. Ootoku, and Mrs. Oh Kesan, For Kobe from Saigon—Mr. Jakeonty, For Yokohama from Marseilles—Mr. and Mrs. Slumine, Messrs. Jacques, Kartzone, and Clayton, From Singapore—Sisters Domitine and St. Bernardin, From Saigon—Dr. Mécre and Mr. Graindorge.
 Per Kutsang, str., for Singapore—Messrs. P. Windsor and Liu Yee Ting, For Calcutta—Sergeant Ferris.
 Per Haitan, str., for Swatow—Mr. D. R. Law.
 Per Sungkiang, str., for Amoy—Messrs. Gardiner and R. P. Fr. José Mosip.
 Per Amur, str., for Taiwanfoo—Messrs. H. Hastings and Elphinstone.
 Per Hankow, str., for Kobe—Mr. Geo. H. Madhurst and Prof. Edmund H. Sharp, For Yokohama—Mr. J. H. Fawcner, For Tacoma—Messrs. F. C. Hillhouse and J. W. Johnson, For San Francisco—Capt. Nichols.
 Per Peshawur, str., for Shanghai from Hongkong—Messrs. Tsin Kee Shang and J. Aoyagi, From Bombay—Mr. A. Griffith, From London—Messrs. O. Stevenson, P. Olsen, C. S. Hicks, Torraine, Grierson, C. W. Thomas, and W. R. Ainsworth, From Brindisi—Signor and Signorina Ghisi.